



Food & Fuel Comments by NARA President, Kent Swisher

As we continue to see the fat markets evolve with the expansion of biomass-based diesel production, we must keep in mind that our markets have been evolving since the beginning of the modern day rendering industry. Renderers have been upcycling raw materials for the food production chain since its inception but has never been fully recognized for its role in protecting the environment. The biofuel industry is paying a premium for the carbon reduction aspects of rendered fats. As some in the pet food industry are trying to start a “food vs. fuel” argument we know by U.S. government published production and consumption data (table 1) that this argument is not valid. Pet food producers don’t have to choose between a healthy planet and pets. They can have both by embracing the rendering industries role in the circular economy.

Table 1

U.S. Production & Use (bio-based diesel) of Rendered Fat in MT; (Annual 2022)						
Product	Production	Imports	Total Supply	Consumption in Bio-based diesel	Percent of Production	Percent of TOTAL Supply
Poultry Fat	917,953	2,992	920,945	73,288	8%	8%
Tallow	2,834,157	554,064	3,388,221	794,616	28%	23%
White Grease	745,891	49,616	795,507	300,239	40%	38%
TOTAL*	4,498,001	606,672	5,104,673	1,168,142	26%	23%
Source:	USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service					
	Energy Information Agency					