



Request for Proposal – FY2024

RFP TITLE: U.S. Rendering Industry Life Cycle Assessment Data for Submission in the GFLI Database

RFP CONTACT:

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PROPOSAL DEADLINE: May 15, 2024 - 12:00 PM EDT (-4 GMT)

INTRODUCTION:

The North American Renderers Association, Inc. (NARA) formally requests proposals for an individual or firm to conduct a life cycle assessment (LCA) of U.S. rendered products to be presented as a data-in project to the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) database. The LCA must be completed utilizing approved SBTi methodologies in accordance with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (FAO/LEAP) guidelines for animal nutrition and food chain systems.

Through a global network of offices and consultants, NARA advocates for a sustainable food chain, public health, and the environment through the production and marketing of rendered animal products and used cooking oil (UCO). NARA promotes effective public policy, regulation, and technology; encourages responsible business practices; supports the free movement of the industry’s products domestically and internationally; and improves stakeholder awareness and understanding of the value of rendered products in food, feed, fuel, and industrial applications.

PURPOSE OF RFP:

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit a contractor to compile an LCA dataset to be presented to the GFLI and accepted into the GFLI database. Feed manufacturers and their downstream customers (livestock and aquaculture producers, pet food brands, and retailers) require this data because it helps them demonstrate carbon reduction in their supply chain and ultimately meet their company’s sustainability targets. Without reliable data about U.S. rendered products in the GFLI database, feed manufacturers are likely to source alternative feed ingredients or rendered raw materials from origins other than the U.S. that already have data in the GFLI database.

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BACKGROUND & PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

NARA's predecessor organization, the National Renderers Association, was an early adopter among agricultural organizations in funding LCA data collection and analysis with a project it conducted with the Animal Co-Products and Education Center (ACREC) based at Clemson University. The activity conducted by Dr. Charles Gooding and published in 2012 developed a carbon calculation tool for the rendering industry. The tool is still in use today and is available on the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation (FPRF) website here

<https://fprf.org/resources/carbon-footprint-calculator/>. NARA wishes to build upon Dr. Gooding's earlier work by expanding and publishing U.S. LCA data in the GFLI database.

GFLI is an independent animal nutrition and food industry institute with the purpose of developing a publicly available Animal Nutrition LCA database to support meaningful environmental assessment of animal nutrition products and stimulate continuous improvement of the environmental performance in the animal nutrition and food industry.

The GFLI is an independent non-profit Institute with the purpose of:

- a. Providing a globally accessible, evolving animal feed ingredient Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) database;
- b. Supporting compliant, credible, and transparent environmental assessment of animal feed ingredients and their role in the environmental footprint of animal derived products; and
- c. Fostering continuous improvement of the environmental performance of animal derived products.

SCOPE (SERVICES) OF WORK:

The work will encompass ~14 ingredients and include all impact categories necessary to meet the European Union Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) Feed standards. These Category Rules standardize how LCAs of products in one product group are conducted. Proposals should follow PEFCR Feed standards utilizing SBTi methodology such as ReCiPe or other approved methods to calculate LCA and environmental footprint with the purpose of submission and approval of these values into the GFLI database. In addition, the project should include all impact categories that are mandatory for European Union Feed Product Environmental Footprint and LCA analyses.

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Security and Privacy:

- All data from single plants or lines will be voluntarily given and – very important – under strict confidentiality.
- The complete data exchange needs to be double locked and directly between producers and the Contractor.
- The Contractor will communicate and work closely with NARA’s Accounting and Compliance personnel and management team, while reporting directly to the VP of Regulatory & Scientific Affairs and the President & CEO.

Below are the deliverables and a suggested timeline for the study’s completion. If prospective contractors cannot implement the project in this timeframe, proposals should include an alternate timeline that includes reporting on preliminary results at NARA’s annual convention on October 24, 2024.

DELIVERABLES:	
Completion Date	Description of Deliverables
Within 10 business days of contract signing	Conduct a kick-off meeting with NARA to finalize the scope
October 1, 2024	Submit preliminary data in and Excel file for NARA’s review
October 15, 2024	Submit final version of data to GFLI for publication on their platform
October 25, 2024	Deliver a PowerPoint presentation interpreting the data and the study’s findings at NARA’s Convention in Santa Barbara, CA
November 21, 2024	Author a scientific journal article promoting the study’s findings
December 12, 2024	Author an article for mainstream media distribution promoting the study’s findings

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PROJECT TIMELINE:
NARA anticipates the contract will begin June 1, 2024.
RFP TIMELINE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP Distribution: April 9, 2024 • Last Day to Submit Questions: May 6, 2024, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time • Project Proposals Due: May 15, 2024, by 12:00 PM Eastern Time • Selections Made By: June 6, 2024 • Prospective Contractors Notified By: June 11, 2024

KEY REQUIREMENTS & INSTRUCTIONS:

Proposals must contain at a minimum the specific criteria listed below:

1. Please email the proposal to RFP@nara.org by 12:00PM EDT (GMT -4) on May 15, 2024. Late submissions will be disqualified.
2. A description of Prospective Contractor’s capabilities, resources, and experience. Emphasis should be placed on experience related to this RFP.
3. A thorough proposal outlining Prospective Contractor’s approach to the project and timeline to complete the work.
4. Resumes or biographies for each of the Prospective Contractor’s personnel assigned to work directly on the implementation of the contract.
5. Provide a minimum of two names and contact information for other similarly sized clients for reference purposes.
6. Detailed Budget - All bids for services must provide a breakout of how the fee was derived including but not limited to a breakdown of hourly rate and the amount of effort they anticipate doing the work.
7. Proposals should be no longer than 10 pages (8 ½” x 11” Letter or A4). Proposals certainly need not be that long if all the requirements can be met with fewer pages.

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SELECTION CRITERIA:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Proposal structure	10%
Proposed Contractor’s LCA experience in feed, pet food, or rendering	30%
Cost-effectiveness	10%
Approach and methodology	30%
References from previous clients	20%

NARA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to negotiate terms with the selected vendor. We look forward to receiving your proposal and potentially working together on this exciting project.

NOTES:

Prospective Contractors are hereby notified that proposals will be duplicated for internal review only. Every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality of all information presented. The appropriate representatives from staff and legal counsel (when necessary) will review proposals. Proposals will not be returned.

NARA reserves the right to retain all proposals submitted. Submission of a proposal indicates acceptance by the submitter of the conditions contained in the request for proposal, unless clearly and specifically noted in the proposal submitted and confirmed in the contract between NARA and the contractor selected.

Confidentiality - Without NARA’s prior written consent, Prospective Contractors and its officers, employees, agents, representatives, affiliates, and subcontractors shall not disclose to any third party any documents, materials, or information that the Prospective Contractors learns from or is provided in relation to the RFP request.

During the evaluation process, NARA reserves the right to request additional information or clarifications from proposers, or to allow corrections of errors and omissions.

NARA reserves the right to reject any proposal that is in any way inconsistent or irregular. NARA also reserves the right to waive proposal defects or deficiencies, to request additional information, and/or to negotiate with the Prospective Contractor regarding the proposal.

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Prospective Contractor agrees that Fees are in lieu of any and all other benefits, including, but not limited to, repayment of any and all taxes related to contractor service fees, health and life insurance, administrative costs, and vacation.

The prospective Contractor agrees that any income taxes, value added taxes or any other form of direct or indirect taxes on compensation paid under the contract shall be paid by the Contractor and not by NARA or Funding Sources.

Prior to any payment to a U.S.-based Contractor, the contractor must provide a signed W-9.

Non-Competition. Contractor shall not act as agent or representative for any product or service that directly competes with rendered products and UCO from the U.S. for the length of the contract.

NARA and Prospective Contractor agree to comply with the provisions of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). NARA provides EEO to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty, or status as a covered veteran in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE & SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

A link to NARA's strategy can be found on the RFP page on its website:

<https://nara.org/request-for-proposals/>

NARA is the international trade association for the rendering industry which safely and efficiently recycles animal by-products and used cooking oil (UCO) from restaurants into rendered material that is used in the sustainable production of valuable products for the animal food, chemical, personal care, and biofuel industries. Rendering is sometimes called “the invisible industry” because many people are unaware that roughly 50% of an animal is considered inedible by North American standards. This leaves a large amount of leftover material that would be treated as food waste were it not for rendering.

Rendering reclaims this otherwise wasted material (like protein, bone, fat etc.), as well as UCO from restaurants, and safely and hygienically processes it into rendered material for use in new products so nothing is wasted. This sustainable process transforms and upcycles what would have been food waste into safe, clean, and valuable ingredients for countless new goods – saving landfill space, and recycling 99% of this unwanted material. These rendered ingredients are then used in the sustainable production of new goods like safe and nutritious pet food, animal feed, household and industrial products, biofuels/renewable diesel, and many more common items that we use or come into contact with every day.

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NARA's 35 member companies operate more than 170 rendering plants in the U.S. and Canada. Members represent more than 95% of North American production by independent renderers (many of which are multi-generation family-owned companies) and integrated packer/processor renderers (those rendering only their own animal by-products).

The U.S. rendering industry produces sustainable rendered products used to create a wide variety of ingredients for products critical to other industries. Companies are also developing new products, such as fuels and enzymes, to meet changing consumer preferences and commercial trends worldwide. Rendered products include fats, animal protein meals, chemicals, fatty acids, tallow, and hides. These high-quality fats and proteins improve the nutrition of farm animals, poultry, fish, and pets.

Renderers also contribute essential ingredients for industrial and consumer products, including lubricants, plastics, printing inks and explosives, and many common items that consumers rely on every day — including cosmetics, shaving cream, deodorant, perfumes, soap, polishes, cleaners, paints, candles, and caulking compounds. Rendered fats are also an essential raw material for use in biofuels and renewable diesel in the U.S. and abroad.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 {voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632- 9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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1. By mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410;
2. By fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. By email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

CIVIL RIGHTS STATEMENT

Contractor agrees that during the performance of this Agreement it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status, parental status or protected genetic information. Contractor further agrees that it will fully comply with any and all applicable Federal, State, and local equal employment opportunity statutes, ordinances, and regulations, including, without limitation, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Nothing in this section shall require Contractor to comply with or become liable under any law, ordinance, regulation, or rule that does not otherwise apply to Contractor.