

Request for Proposal – 2024 RAPP Program

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
October 10, 2024 - 12:00 PM EDT (-4 GMT)

RFP TITLE: BUYER'S GUIDE TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

RFP CONTACT:

Email: RFP@nara.org

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: October 10, 2024 - 12:00 PM EDT (-4 GMT)

INTRODUCTION:

The North American Renderers Association, Inc. (NARA) formally requests proposals for an individual or firm to provide professional services to conduct an environmental scan of existing rendering industry reference material, gather data and information, and author a new and improved information manual that NARA will publish as a reference point for international buyers of rendered and repurposed food and feed products.

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:

NARA routinely publishes RFPs to ensure that ongoing work in various markets is managed in an open and competitive manner. This type of cost analysis and benchmarking will assist in determining the fair market value for the services to be performed and allows NARA the opportunity to evaluate qualified proposals and select the best contractor for the job based on technical qualifications, subject matter expertise, experience, strength of industry connections and contacts, and suitable fees and availability that matches the needs under this contract.

The purpose of this RFP is to seek proposals from qualified individuals or firms with subject matter expertise who can perform an environmental scan of existing technical and commercial standards for the trade as sale of rendered and repurposed animal and feed products and draw from that information to update existing information and develop new resources to be compiled into a new information manual. The candidate must demonstrate technical and commercial expertise in the rendering industry, familiarity with existing trade flows, and a deep understanding of the relevant supply chain stakeholders. Once data and

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information gaps and opportunities are identified, the contractor will close the data/information gaps based on his/her/their own industry knowledge, with only guiding principles and scope of work input from NARA staff and members. Contractor(s) must have the ability to work independently and curate and/or author reference material that is currently relevant and necessary for international buyers to have about rendered animal products. The information will be compiled into a written document(s) that will be published and hosted on a web-based educational platform and smartphone application. The buyer's guide will be a resource to help facilitate trade between U.S. exporters and international buyers of rendered and repurposed food and feed products. The guide will be featured alongside additional educational resources developed by NARA and partner organizations to assist international buyers and their supply chain partners.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

NARA's predecessor organization, the National Renderers Association, published an information manual or "pocket guide" to be used as a buyer's guide to rendered products. The guide included:

1. A glossary of abbreviations and definitions of terms used in commercial transactions, quality control, and product specifications.
2. A listing of the products available from the rendering industry and descriptions of their product characteristics, grades, and specifications.
3. A section on conversion tables.

The [last update to the manual](#) was in 2009 and the information is dated. Since then, the rendering industry has undergone a significant transformation and food safety standards have evolved as well. The existing information in the manual should be updated, but the new manual should take a broader look at the landscape and the relationship between renderers, their international buyers, and the information NARA should provide stakeholders to help simplify commercial transactions, remove potential points of friction between supply chain partners, and operate as a reference point for the industry.

When the last pocket guide was published, the iPhone was only one year old. In 2024, people expect to easily consume data and information at their fingertips so publishing this manual as smartphone and web-based application is how NARA plans to make the information easily accessible and searchable. NARA will promote the buyers' guide through its international marketing activities worldwide, through digital marketing, and as a resource on its website. The existing information in the manual should be updated, but the new manual should take a broader look at the landscape and the

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relationship between renderers, their buyers, and the information NARA can provide stakeholders to help simplify commercial transactions and remove potential points of friction between supply chain partners. The new manual may also contain additional product offerings that were not in the rendering product mix back in 2009. The new buyer's guide may combine elements similar to the 2009 manual and the [North American Rendering "black book" guide](#) which has not been updated since 2005. NARA encourages prospective contractors to take a fresh look at existing information and make recommendations on what buyers want/need now and in the future. The contractor should include in its environmental scan the resources and standards published by rendering associations from other origins such as Australia, Europe, and Brazil.

Some of the data and information to be published in the guide may be derived from resources developed by supply chain partners, and in those cases, the material will be co-branded as necessary.

In addition to updating and publishing an updated buyer's guide, NARA wants to leverage the web-based platform to create a one-stop resource to house all information and tools that will be useful to international buyers. Rendering University will combine buyer's guide, infographics, online training, research, market data, and a match-making function to connect buyers and sellers of rendered and repurposed food and feed ingredients. NARA believes this resource will help buyers understand the availability, reliability of supply, and useful tools to foster relationships throughout the supply chain. The contractor(s) are welcome to recommend additional content they could author/curate that would be appropriate for Rendering University and include it in an optional "menu" of options in their proposal after the buyers' guide is complete.

SCOPE (SERVICES) OF WORK:

- Conduct an environmental scan of existing data/information based on their own industry knowledge and experience and scope of work input from NARA staff and members.
- Compile data and information, update and write copy for the manual, and obtain related images to included in an updated buyers' guide/manual. (Note: another NARA contractor will publish the guide/resources once completed via a web-based and smartphone application.
- The initial version of the application will be in English, with the possibility of translation to other languages in the future. The contractor(s) is welcome to provide input about languages that are most commercially relevant to the trade.
- The Contractor will communicate with and work closely with NARA's Accounting and Compliance personnel and management team, while reporting directly to the SVP of International Programs and the President & CEO.



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DELIVERABLES:	
Completion Date	Description of Deliverables
Within 10 business days of contract signing	Conduct a kick-off meeting with NARA to brainstorm ideas and finalize the scope of work
October 30, 2024	Submit work plan for manual development including notation of any information needed from NARA or partners
December 2, 2024	Submit preliminary version of the manual for review by NARA staff and stakeholders
December 16, 2024 or sooner	Deliver final written version of the manual's content.

PROJECT TIMELINE:
NARA anticipates the contract will begin October 2024 and end December 31, 2024.
RFP TIMELINE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RFP Distribution: September 25, 2024• Last Day to Submit Questions: October 4, 2024 by 5:00 PM Eastern Time• Project Proposals Due: October 10, 2024 by 12:00 PM Eastern Time• Selections Made By: October 17, 2024• Prospective Contractors Notified By: October 18, 2024

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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 October 10, 2024 with “Buyer’s Guide Technical Consultant” in the subject line.
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 Contractors’ approach to the project and timeline to complete the work.
4. Resumes 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. If a Prospective Contractor has the expertise to compile the content for the manual and develop a mobile- and web-based application to disseminate the information digitally, please separate out the two functions into 1) professional services for content creation, and 2) application development services.
8. Proposals should be no longer than 10 pages (8 ½” x 11” Letter or A4), but shorter proposals are encouraged. Proposals certainly need not be that long if all the requirements can be met with fewer pages.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Proposal structure	10%
Proposed Contractor’s technical skills and rendering industry knowledge	30%
Cost-effectiveness	10%
Approach and methodology	30%
References from previous clients	20%

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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.

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.

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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.

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.

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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, audiotape, 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:

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.

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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

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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.