

Australians Process 2.5 Million Tons of Raw Material



The Australian Renderers Association recently released results of a commissioned survey on production of rendered products in Australia for the period June 2000 to July 2001. The results have been used to help develop a fact sheet about the Australian rendering industry, which can be used by Australian renderers when discussing rendering issues with regulators, politicians, customers, and other interested parties.

The survey involved collecting data from all Australian rendering plants. Seventy-eight out of 111 plants

of rendered product. At that time, ABS reported production for meat meal was 450,000 tons and production of tallow was 426,000 tons. Possible reasons for increases in production of rendered products are:

- Production of carcass meat in 2000/2001 was approximately 11 percent higher than in 1993/1994;
- There has been an increase in the production of grain fed cattle for the Japanese and domestic market leading to increased tallow production;

Table 1. Total Production of Rendered Product in Australia, June 2000-July 2001

Commodity	Annual Production (metric tons)	Value (in U.S. million \$)*
Mixed Species Meat Meal	234,400	—
Single Species Meat Meal	282,400	—
Total Meat Meal	516,800	\$108.8
Poultry Meal	45,500	\$15.8
Feather Meal	29,100	7.9
Blood Meal	30,900	11.7
Tallow	567,000	92.3
Poultry Oil	25,700	6.6
Total		\$242.5

*Based on exchange rate in 2000/2001 of \$1 Aus = \$.51 U.S.

responded to the survey to give a response rate of 70 percent. Twenty-nine out of the top 30 producers responded and estimates are that the production figures collected in the survey account for 86 percent of the production in the country. The remaining production from the 33 plants that did not respond was estimated.

The results of the survey are summarized in table 1. Production of meat meal and tallow in 2000/2001 appears to be considerably higher than had been reported previously, which was in 1993/1994 when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) stopped collecting information on production

of rendered product. At that time, ABS reported production for meat meal was 450,000 tons and production of tallow was 426,000 tons. Possible reasons for increases in production of rendered products are:

- There has been a trend to centralized boning and packing combined with distribution of boneless meat, which may have increased the amount of fat and bone that is readily available for collection and rendering;
- There is less fat on meat sold at retail and more fat is trimmed off meat in boning rooms and butcher shops. There may also have been an increase in boneless meat sold at retail resulting in more bones available for rendering.

From the production shown in table 1, the amount of raw material processed by the Australian rendering industry is about 2.5 million tons. ❖