

Safe use of fats and oils in stock feeds prepared for ruminants



SAFEMEAT, the Australian Renderers Association (ARA) and the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia (SFMCA) remind producers about the safe use of recycled fats and oils in ruminant feed.

The Australian livestock industries are strongly committed to the highest levels of food safety and product integrity in the meat products we produce. For this reason it is critical that producers fully understand the contents of purchased feed and the ingredients they use when mixing stock feeds.

The use of recycled fats and oils has potential impacts both in regard to the feeding of Restricted Animal Material (RAM) and the feeding of Animal Fats. Both of these have implications for the safety of Australian product and access to our markets.

A number of instances have occurred overseas, where contaminated used cooking oil and glycerine have been incorporated into animal feeds with severe food safety and market consequences. In Belgium in 1999, vegetable oil that was contaminated with Dioxin was used in mixing stockfeed. At the height of the incident Belgium and German authorities were forced to block meat and egg sales from 4,670 farms.

Remember that anything fed to ruminants must comply with State regulations which prohibit feeding of RAM.

Safe use of fats and oils in ruminant feed

- Used cooking oils should only be sourced from establishments that are accredited to the National Standard for Recycling of Used Cooking Fats and Oils Intended for Animal Feeds, this ensures that recognised standards have been adhered to and the product is deemed to be free of RAM. Ask your supplier if they are accredited next time you purchase feed or feed ingredients.
- Unprocessed used cooking oils should not be used and are designated as RAM and do not meet the requirements of the ruminant feed ban as ingredients for use in ruminant feeds.
- Avoid using recycled oils and fats that are not specifically intended for use in stock feed. Also avoid using any feed/feed ingredient if you cannot be sure it is free from contamination
- Request a commodity vendor declaration from your feed supplier and/or your feed ingredient supplier when you purchase feed so you have documentation to show that your livestock have not been fed anything contaminated with substances that may be of concern to markets.
- When purchasing feed look for feeds that have been prepared under a quality assurance program such as FeedSafe®. For a list of FeedSafe® accredited feed suppliers see the SFMCA website: www.sfmca.com.au or ask your feed supplier if they are accredited.



Market access

Recycled oils and fats that meet the National Standard for Recycling of Used Cooking Fats and Oils Intended for Animals and tallow with less than 2% moisture and insoluble impurities are excluded from the definition of Restricted Animal Material.

However, be aware that some meat importing countries, including Saudi Arabia, prohibit the import of product from animals that have been fed animal fats and recycled cooking oil that may contain animal fats.

Question 2 on the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) for cattle refers to the feeding of Animal Fats. The question asks “Have the cattle in this consignment ever in their lives been fed feed containing animal fats?” If animals have been fed tallow or recycled cooking oils, producers need to answer “Yes” to this question.

If you wish to answer “No” to this question, then you must ensure you have a guarantee from your supplier that the oil you are purchasing is only vegetable based.

Before feeding any recycled cooking oil and tallow, it is recommended that producers check with their processor regarding any potential market access issues with respect to feeding animal fats.

Further information and contacts

For information on the National Standard for Recycling of Used Cooking Fats and Oils Intended for Animal Feeds contact:

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For more information on FeedSafe® please contact:

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