

THE

# Journal

OF THE AMERICAN  
LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

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## 118th Annual Convention

May 21-23, 2024

Hershey Lodge  
325 University Drive  
Hershey, PA 17033

For more information go to:  
[leatherchemists.org/  
annual\\_convention.asp](http://leatherchemists.org/annual_convention.asp)

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# LEATHER BY NUMBERS:

## FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE US LEATHER INDUSTRY AND BEYOND

Note: All figures as of January 2021 or latest available.

**ZERO** cattle are killed to make US leather. US hides have been valued at **JUST 1-2%** of a cow's total value for the last two years, which is why they are considered a by-product and often end up as waste. The average price per head of US cattle is \$2,000-2.200, while hides vary in price from **\$5 TO \$35 PER PIECE**, if sold at all. <sup>(1)</sup>

**330M** hides come from the meat and dairy industries around the world. Approximately **34M** were processed the US. <sup>(2)</sup> **AS MANY AS 2.4M US HIDES** ended up as landfill in 2019, this is **7%** of the national total.

Worldwide the waste figure is approximately **40%** or **132M** hides. With the average hide weighing 25Kg this means that **3M TONNES** are thrown away ever year.

Leather production turns more than **4.5M TONNES OF** potential waste, every year, into usable, durable goods. This saves **2.7M TONS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** from landfill sites. <sup>(3)</sup>

Production, processing and distribution of hides and leather products directly employs an estimated **5,486** individuals, who collectively earn more than **\$384M**. US exports of hides and leather was over **\$1.5BILLION** in 2021. <sup>(4)</sup>

The US exports approximately **95%** of all cattle hide and wet blue leather products it produces, worth **\$2.85BILLION**. <sup>(5)</sup>

Around **45%** of global leather production is used to make footwear, **22%** for clothing, bags and accessories, **18%** for car upholstery, and about **15%** for furniture. <sup>(6)</sup>

Water consumption for the production of leather from cattle hides has fallen by more than **35%** in the past 25 years, down from **60 CUBIC-METERS** per ton of hides to **38 CUBIC-METERS** per ton. US tanneries are required, by law, to connect to effluent treatment plants to prevent pollution. <sup>(7)</sup>

Leather will biodegrade in **LESS THAN 50 YEARS**. In contrast, it can take **500 YEARS** or more for synthetics, made from petrochemicals, to degrade. <sup>(8)</sup>

ReFed's conversion rate for food waste is for **EACH METRIC TON OF WASTE DISPOSAL** there is **9.8 7MT** of **CO2 EQUIVALENT** emitted. In this case, mostly as methane. <sup>(9)</sup>

This factsheet is produced by the Leather and Hide Council of America (L&HCA), established to promote the US leather industry which is responsible for a significant proportion of the international trade in hides. The L&HCA works to establish best practice in US leather production and to share this worldwide. Figures quoted refer to the USA unless otherwise stated.

### SOURCE:

- (1) <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/rx913p88g/w0893g25p/5d86qb66f/1stk0223.pdf>
- (2) <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/r207tp32d/pg15cj85z/hd76t466z/lsan0422.pdf>
- (3) 2020 LHCA Infographic
- (4) John Dunham & Associates, Economic Impact of the Meat Industry (2016)
- (5) <https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/US-Hide-Skin-and-Leather-Factsheet-0420.pdf>
- (6) TBC
- (7) 2020 LHCA factsheet
- (8) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leather#:~:text=Leather%20biodegrades%20slowly%20E2%80%94taking%2025,or%20more%20years%20to%20decompose>
- (9) <https://insights-engine.refed.org/impact-calculator?inputs=%207B%22sector%22%3A%22manufacturing%22%2C%22type%22%3A%22fresh-meat-seafood%22%2C%22unit%22%3A%22tons%22%2C%22alternative%22%3Afalse%2C%22destinations%22%3A%20%20%22key%22%3A%22refuse-discards%22%2C%22current%22%3A1%7D%5D%7D>

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of the*  
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# 117th ALCA Annual Convention

## June 20-23, 2023

### Grand Geneva Resort & Spa Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, USA

#### Technical Program starting Wednesday, June 21

#### *John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture*

*Retelling “Viewing Leather Through the Eyes of Science” A Century On  
by Mike Redwood, Leather Naturally, Somerset, UK*

*A big thank you is extended to The Leather & Hide Council of America (LHCA) for holding their Spring Board of Directors Policy Meeting at our location and as key contributor for the presentations on Thursday*

#### **Other Papers to be Presented on Wednesday and Thursday:**

**From Waste to Resource. Available Technologies for a Sustainable Leather Process** by Daniele Bacchi and Sergio Dani, Italprogetti S.p.A., San Romano, Italy

**Enzymatic Applications for Sustainable Leather Processing** by Olga Ballús, Cromogenia S.A., Barcelona, SPAIN

**Bisphenols — Threat for the Leather Industry? — Strategy to Overcome This Problem**  
by Harald Bauer, Stahl Chemicals German GmbH, GERMANY

**Sustainable Hide Sourcing and Traceability** by Danielle Dotzenrod, BEHUMANE Leather, Decorah, Iowa

**Managing Potential PFAS Liability in the Leather Industry** by Kelley Drye, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, Washington, D.C.

**Making Sustainability Measurable: Biobased Content, Biodegradability and EPD of Retanning Chemicals**  
by Jordi Escabros, Trumpler Espanola, Barcelona, SPAIN

**Environmental Update** by Joe Green, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, Washington, D.C.

**Next Generation Dulling Technology Application: A New Way to Matte Leather** by Myron Hooks,  
The Dow Chemical Company, Collegeville, PA

**Showcasing Sustainability, Investing in Our Future** by Kevin Latner,  
Leather and Hide Council of America (LHCA), Washington, D.C.

**Key Modifications to Silicone Polymers That Have Enabled Their Utility in Leather** by Pete LeBaron,  
CHT USA, Cassopolis, MI

**The Leather Industry as a Driver for Change within the Context of Global Warming**  
by Guilherme Motta, JBS Couros, BRAZIL

**Identification of Bacterial and Fungal Damage in Leather** by Joseph Ondari Nyakundi, Leather Research Laboratory,  
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

**Traceability, How to Mark and Read Hides during the Process** by Marc Oomens, im innovating, The Netherlands

**Market, LCA, and User Data in an Emotionally Driven Decision about Leather — Our Responsibilities**  
by Roger Pinto, Pangea Made, Inc., Rochester Hills, MI

**Update on Leading Issues Impacting the Leather Industry**  
by Stephen Sothmann, Leather and Hide Council of America (LHCA), Washington, D.C.

**With TFL Through the Legislation Maze to Renewable Leather** by Christopher S. Tysoe, TFL, Germany

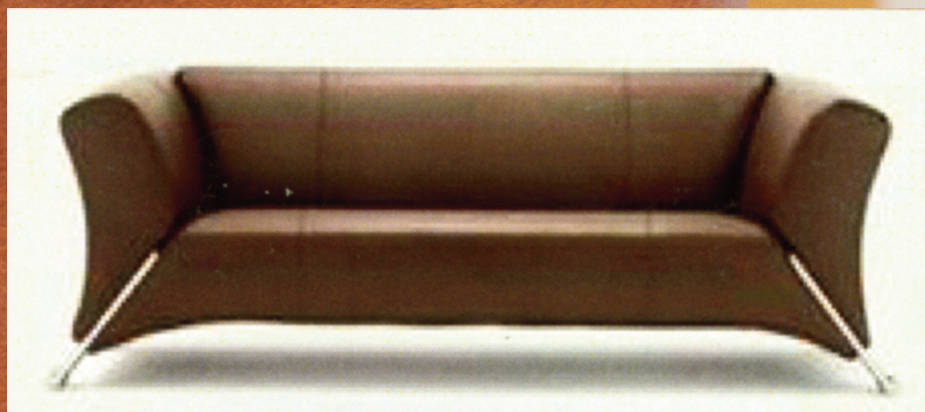
**Overview and Performance of a New Substrate for the Tanning Industry**  
by David Williamson, Modern Meadow, Inc., Nutley, NJ

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### ***Missing issues needed.***

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**1939 - January, March and April**

**1940 - January**

**1946 - February**



## CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR THE 118th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

Hershey Lodge, Hershey Pennsylvania

May 21–24, 2024

If you have recently completed or will shortly be completing research studies relevant to hide preservation, hide and leather defects, leather manufacturing technology, new product development, tannery equipment development, leather properties and specifications, tannery environmental management, or other related subjects, you are encouraged to present the results of this research at the next annual convention of the Association to be held at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey Pennsylvania, May 21–24, 2024

**Abstracts are due by March 1, 2024**

**Full Presentations are due by May 1, 2024**

They are to be submitted by e-mail to the  
ALCA Vice-President and Chair of the Technical Program:

**JOHN RODDEN**

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E-mail: johnrodden@unionspecialtiesinc.com

The **ABSTRACT** should begin with the title in capital letters, followed by the authors' names. An asterisk should denote the name of the speaker, and contact information should be provided that includes an e-mail address. The abstract should be no longer than 300 English words, and in the Microsoft Word format.

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# **118th ALCA ANNUAL CONVENTION May 21 – 24, 2024 Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA**

**Featuring the 63rd John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture**

**By Panos Mytaros  
Chief Executive Officer  
ECCO**

## **Tentative Schedule**

**Tuesday, May 21**

Golf Tournament, Opening Reception and Dinner

**Wednesday, May 22**

John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture All Day  
Technical Sessions, Fun Run, Reception and Dinner

**Thursday, May 23**

All Day Technical Sessions, Annual Business Meeting  
Activities Awards Luncheon  
Social Hour, Banquet Dinner

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