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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/
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Contents

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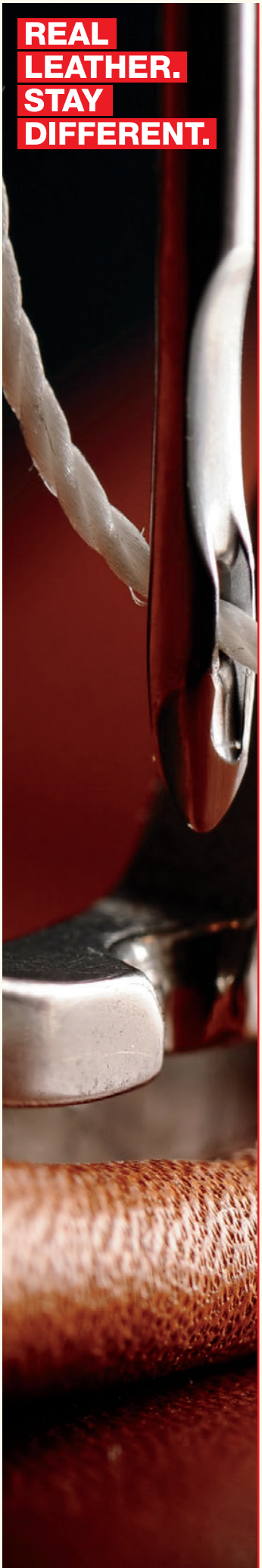

LEATHER BY NUMBERS:

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. (1)

330M hides come from the meat and dairy industries around the world. Approximately 34M were processed the US. (2) 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. (3)

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. (4)

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

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. (6)

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. (7)

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

ReFed's conversion rate for food waste is for EACH METRIC TON OF WASTE DISPOSAL there is 9.87MT of CO2 EQUIVALENT emitted. In this case, mostly as methane. (9)

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/w0893q25p/5d86qb66f/lstk0223.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%E2%80%94taking%2025,or%20more%20years%20to%20decompose
(9) https://insights-engine.refed.org/impact-calculator?inputs=%7B%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%5B%7B%22key%22%3A%22refuse-discards%22%2C%22current%22%3A1%7D%5D%7D

JOURNAL OF THE
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of the
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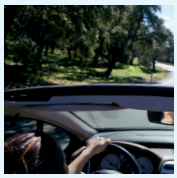
With the rise of both electric and self-driving, cars are becoming quieter and anti-squeak and rattle materials are becoming increasingly important. At the same time, improved anti-stain performance is required, because of the current trend for pale-colored car seats. Therefore, we have developed Stay Clean. This low-VOC coating technology protects pale-colored leather and vinyl surfaces against common stains, such as dye from jeans, spilled coffee and dirt. Our solution also makes surfaces low-squeak, which is a great asset as global research has shown that a squeaking car interior is one of the biggest annoyances among car owners. Another trend in car interior is the popularity of matt surfaces. Therefore, we have developed PolyMatte®. This non-squeaking solution provides a luxurious feel to the finished article in combination with flexibility and scratch and abrasion resistance. Our portfolio contains many products, varying from beamhouse products, tanning systems to finishes, duller concentrates, crosslinkers and thickeners to leveling agents, defoamers, colorants and hand modifiers. Our most sustainable option is Green PolyMatte®, which is based on rapeseed oil (20%) instead of crude oil-derived intermediates. If you would like to know what our Stahl solutions for automotive can do for your business, please visit **www.stahl.com** or contact us at: **alexander.campbell@us.stahl.com**.

If it can be imagined, it can be created

Stay Clean



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The American Leather Chemists Association

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Missing issues needed.

1924 - January

1937 - January and December

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
Union Specialties, Inc.
3 Malcom Hoyt Dr.
Newburyport, MA 01950
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.

Full Presentations at the convention will be limited to 25 minutes. In accordance with the Association Bylaws, all presentations are considered for publication by *The Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association*. They are not to be published elsewhere, other than in abstract form, without permission of the *Journal* Editor. For further paper preparation guidelines please refer to the *JALCA* Publication Policy on our website: leatherchemists.org

Full Presentations are to be submitted by e-mail to the *JALCA* editor:

Steven D. Lange, *Journal* Editor
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118th ALCA ANNUAL CONVENTION May 21 – 24, 2024 Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA

Featuring the 63nd 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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