



The 2012–2013 edition of Tannery of the Year competition is under way and in this issue we look at the Americas. There were 11 shortlisted tanneries from which two finalists have emerged.

Arlei, Las Toscas, Santa Fe, Argentina

Arlei employs 1,500 workers and uses state-of-the-art technology to process about 300,000 hides a month. In 2000, it invested \$4 million in an effluent treatment facility next to its chrome tannery. It says it consumes around 22% of the total slaughter of Argentinean hides, exporting a wide range of products globally.

Curtume Fridolino Ritter, Picada Café, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Curtume Fridolino Ritter is a tannery based in the small town of Picada Café, to the north of Novo Hamburgo in one of Brazil's main leather-producing states, Rio Grande do Sul. Specialising in bovine leather, Curtume Ritter processes around 1,000 hides a day, making nappa, split and semi-chrome leather.

Curtume Viposa, Caçador, Santa Catarina, Brazil

Located in the south of Brazil, Viposa was established in 1954 and is owned by the Seleme Group. It has an on-site effluent treatment plant and has established a reforestation project, which ensures a sustainable biomass supply to the tannery.

Fuga Couros, Jales, São Paulo, Brazil

Fuga Couros' 13,000 square-metre unit, located in Jales, processes 4,000 wet blue hides per day. Besides the domestic market, the company supplies to Asia and Europe. The company runs its own not-for-profit organisation devoted to providing cultural and healthcare support to children in the communities with which it shares resources.



NOMINATED

JBS Couros, Cascavel, Ceará, Brazil

JBS is the largest Brazilian exporter of beef and produces wet blue, semi-finished and finished leather for the footwear, automotive, furniture and artefact industries. Over the next five years it has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, using biomass as a source of power and using biodiesel in the group's fleet of trucks.

Lefarc, León, Mexico

Lefarc has been established for over 100 years, producing high-quality products free from heavy metals and carcinogenic materials. It says it is a social company and is committed to protecting the environment.

Sadesa, San Luis, Argentina

Sadesa specialises in high-quality bovine leather for the footwear, leathergoods and upholstery industries. It operates 10 industrial facilities throughout South America and Asia, with a worldwide raw material structure and a global sales network.

SB Foot, Red Wing, Minnesota, US

Minnesota-based SB Foot still uses traditional wooden drums similar to those the company would have used when it was established in 1872. Much of its material is sourced from ranches in Nebraska and it is a major supplier of leather to the US military.

Suelas Wyny, León, Mexico

With a production capacity of 3,500 hides a day, Suelas Wyny's philosophy is that it should continuously improve, using the most advanced technology and the skill of highly qualified personnel. It says it meets clients' requirements through innovation, staff development, industrial safety standards and environmental stewardship.

Tenería Panamericana, León, Mexico

Specialising in high-quality bovine leathers, Tenería Panamericana uses cutting-edge technology, working with US big packer and domestic hide as a raw material. It says it is committed to its clients and workforce, and supports the local community.

Tyson Group, Dakota City, Nebraska, US

Tyson Foods is one of the world's largest processors of chicken, beef and pork, and runs its own tanneries. As a group, it has established a number of social and environmental programmes, including a hunger relief campaign, through which it has donated more than 35 million kilos of food to food banks and relief agencies.

Detailed reports on the work of the two finalists follow.



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