

Wilson and Company Inc.



Wilson's Oklahoma City meat packing plant and refinery are headquarters for the company's refinery operations.

THROUGHOUT the early colonial days and well into the 19th century America's supply of fats and oils came largely from the meat packing industry in the form of lard, beef fats, and inedible tallows and greases. Today about 24% of the nation's supply of food fats and oils and 60% of the total production of inedible fats and oils are products of the meat packing industry.

It is only natural that Wilson and Company Inc., America's third largest meat packer, should be an important manufacturer of edible and inedible fats and oils. The company carries on refining and rendering operations at six of its meat packing plants, in addition to its Oklahoma City refinery; by-products division plants at Cambridge, Mass., Chicago, Philadelphia, and Birkenhead, England; and its Wilson-Martin Division plant in Philadelphia.

Although the Wilson name was first used in 1916, the company's beginnings, through its predecessor companies, go back nearly 100 years to New York. (Our New York plant gave way for the United Nations buildings.) Today, with annual sales averaging more than \$600,000,000, Wilson is one of the nation's major food processors. It operates meat packing plants at Albert Lea, Minn., Cedar Rapids, Ia., Omaha, Neb., Kansas City,

Kans., Memphis, Tenn., Oklahoma City, Okla., Denver, Colo., Edgar, Wis., and Los Angeles, Calif., in the United States; at São Paulo and Ponta Grossa, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, in South America. It also carries on operations in Australia, New Zealand, and England.

The company is also an important processor of dairy, egg, and poultry products and operates seven dairy and poultry processing plants. Manufacturing and distributing branches are strategically located throughout the United States and in European countries.

Various divisions and subsidiaries provide outlets for many of the by-products of meat processing through the production of pharmaceuticals, gelatin, industrial oils, and athletic goods. The Wilson Sporting Goods Company subsidiary is the nation's largest manufacturer and distributor of sporting goods.

THE Central Research Laboratories and its headquarters offices are located in Chicago. George Crapple is director, Research and Technical Division. To improve its refinery operations emphasis has been placed on vegetable oil refinery operations at the Oklahoma City refinery. Headquarters for refinery operations

were transferred recently to Oklahoma City, with Rodney Stewart as the manager. W.Q. Braun was made technical director of the new Development Laboratory.

Until about two years ago the Wilson-Martin Division in Philadelphia was basically a manufacturer of fatty acids, using all triglycerides as raw materials but specializing in fatty acids from tallow. It was here that Wilson and Company developed continuous distillation of fatty acids. In the past two years this division has branched into derivatives, upgrading the fatty acids for special uses. These derivatives fall principally into three categories: fatty acid esters, epoxy plasticizers, and dibasic acids.

In the first group is a variety of esters which are used as emulsifiers, lubricants, wetting agents, and softeners. In the second group a number of select plasticizers for polyvinyl chloride resin are manufactured. The dibasic acids are used in the manufacture of polyamide resins. Tom McGuine is the technical director of their Research and Development Laboratory.

The company's principal edible fats and oil products are shortenings, lard, margarines, salad and cooking oils, and specialty products. These products are marketed under such widely known brand names as Bake-Rite and its trio of Regular, Plus, and 140; Wilco, Wilco Fry, and Wilco Bake; Certified, Laurel, and Py; Advance, Fryrite, and Pure White; Savory and Silver Bell; Par and Frosto.

To the feed industry the Red W Brand of meat scraps and Vitagen Feeding fats are well known, as are its line of mink and pet foods, which is led by Ideal Dog Food.

MANY members of the American Oil Chemists' Society cherish memories of these Wilson men: L.M. Tolman, A.A. Robinson, and H.C. Dormitzer for each has served as Society president.

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