



Commercial Fats and Oils Analysis Committee

The Commercial Fats and Oils Analysis Committee is a technical committee responsible for the investigation of methods concerned with the analysis of fats and oils sold on the commodity market. These are to be found in Section C of the *AOCS Official and Tentative Methods*.

This committee is perhaps the Society's oldest and is entering its 61st year of existence.

Currently the chairman of this important committee is Jack W. McEwan, Central Soya Co., Inc. (Decatur, IN), who works with an appointive member-at-large group consisting of Stan Barta, Dick Dreyer, Ed Hahn, Jim Laubscher, Jim Ridlehuber, and Jim Taylor.

Subcommittees currently active include Bleaching Methods, Neutral Oil Loss, Polyethylene in Fats, and the newest one, Titrimetric Soap in Oil. Rosters for each are listed in the latest *AOCS* directory.

In relatively recent years, this committee was instrumental in the change in calculating oil losses and premiums, replacing cup loss values with neutral oil loss values. In this instance, the Technical Committee of the National Soybean Processors Association worked closely with the *AOCS*. Considerable sums of money are involved in the commodities market, and The Neutral Oil and Loss Method Ca 9f-57 was the result of time donated by companies (through their laboratory personnel) interested in buying oil and those interested in selling oil.

One subcommittee is actively pursuing a method for determining polyethylene in fats, and a new tentative method will be forthcoming shortly and welcomed by interested parties in the U.S. as well as others worldwide. A General information method can be found in *JAOCS* 52:522A. Polyethylene can be a problem in processing certain types of fats or greases.

Another newly formed subcommittee is attempting to develop a procedure for determination of soap in refined oil by titrimetry. The method now in our book requires expensive equipment and is relatively slow, being more satisfactory for research than control procedures, which should be relatively simple and short.

An ongoing project of the Commercial Fats and Oils Analysis Committee is to keep Section C of the *Methods* book up to date, which requires periodic reviews.

Future projects may be recommended directly to the chairman by any members, or they may come through Uniform Methods or any other committee.

It is hoped that the policy of one meeting per year will not adversely affect or slow down this committee's work. Special one day committee meetings may be required if Society affairs tend to drag. All members are hereby requested to answer all communications promptly, by return mail whenever possible.

International Relations Committee

The scope of the International Relations Committee is to increase *AOCS* contacts with lipid chemists from other countries, inform *JAOCS* readers of foreign activities in this field, and in general promote the name and activities of *AOCS* abroad.

At the present time there are 12 members of this administrative committee: E. Marshack, chairman (Eugene Marshack Associates, Great Neck, NY) M. Eijadi (PVO International, NJ), N.D. Embree (Kingsport, TN), A.V. Graci (Wurster & Sanger, Inc., Chicago, IL), P. Kalustian (Peter Kalustian Associates, Inc., Boonton, NJ), F.P. Khym (Anderson Clayton & Co., S.A., Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico), F.E. Lawatsch (De Laval Separator Co., Poughkeepsie, NY), R.H. Potts, consultant (Armak Company, McCook, IL), G. Rouser (City of Hope Medical Center, Duarte, CA), R.C. Stillman (Cincinnati, OH), G.C. de Tejada (Harshaw Chemical Co., Cleveland, OH), and F.B. White (Foster Wheeler Energy Corp., Livingston, NJ).

The committee, which functions now through its members—individuals who travel on their regular business—and through its corresponding secretaries, is achieving its goal. It has not been its aim, and it is not now, to proselytize *AOCS* overseas, nor to earnestly recruit new members in other countries. Many countries have their own topnotch fats and oils organizations of which they are justly proud. But, hopefully, as our colleagues become more and more acquainted with the activities and scope of *AOCS*, they will want to join. In some cases, however, it is difficult, if not impossible, to transfer funds for the payment of membership dues.

The International Relations Committee came into being when a need for closer collaboration with foreign scientists became clear during a discussion, back in December 1972, between then president of *AOCS* A. Ernest MacGee and Raymond Reiser of Texas A&M. In the months that followed, Richard Baldwin and Walter Lundberg made additional suggestions and, at the April 1963 Atlanta Convention, the Governing Board decided to create a special committee to study how best to collaborate with our overseas counterparts. In May 1963, Lundberg, by then president of *AOCS*, offered the chairmanship of the newly created International Relations Committee to Reiser, who accepted and, in September 1963, made a 10 week trip throughout various countries in Europe, where he found a very positive response and a shared desire to cooperate. At that time, the current chairman, Eugene Marshack, became a committee member.

At the Spring 1964 meeting in New Orleans, the International Relations Committee met for the first time and discussed, among other things, the desirability of organizing a joint *AOCS-ISF* (International Congress for Fat Research) meeting, which finally took place in Chicago in October 1970. Also discussed was an intent to send observers to study the work of major European research centers. However, the cost would have been too high and eventually, many years later, other ways were found to achieve the same goal.

At the 1965 Fall meeting of *AOCS* in Cincinnati, the International Relations Committee decided to create a special section in *JAOCS* in which to report, on a regular basis, activities in the fats and oils industry of other countries, and the "Four Corners" section was born.

"Four Corners" appears in *JAOCS* four times a year and is composed of contributions from corresponding secretaries. The latter representatives from abroad are distinguished professionals, well aware of the developments in their respective countries and/or regional areas, who have graciously accepted to serve in that capacity. At this time, 35 corresponding secretaries represent 36 countries, and the committee constantly seeks wider representation. The names and addresses of these corresponding secretaries have been compiled in an updated list which is available to all.

Information submitted for publication in "Four Corners" can be technical or nontechnical: advance information, including programs, of professional meetings to be held or reviews of meetings which have already taken place; industrial activity, through market data and general evalu-

ation, description of outstanding industrial or analytical processes, notices of new companies or major plant or laboratory construction; research, through news from academic and other institutions working on lipid research, especially on fats and oils and their relation to nutrition, toxicity, metabolism, etc.; and items of general interest relating to key people in our industry all over the world.

Because of this wide range, there are two corresponding secretaries in some countries: one who is more familiar with the purely scientific and medical aspects and one who reports on industry.

Every so often, corresponding secretaries will submit long articles about the conditions and status of special crops in their countries, for instance, Brazil and Australia. Because of their length, such articles are published as feature articles in *JAOCS*.

In 1972, AOCS made an important arrangement with the European Club for Lipid Research, which comprises the most important research centers in Belgium, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and The Netherlands. The activities of each of those centers are described once a year, simultaneously, in four major publications: *Fette, Seife, Anstrichmittel*, *Grasas y Aceites*, *Revue Francaise des Corps Gras*, and *Revista Italiana delle Sostanze Grasse*. It was agreed to publish the same articles in *JAOCS* as special features, among them the following: Details of the Club (June 1972), Belgium (August 1972), Germany and Spain (September 1972), France (January 1973), The Netherlands (April 1973), and Italy (December 1973). Reciprocally, AOCS has the right to publish free of charge, six times a year, a 1-2 page article concerning AOCS activities in the four European journals. The first such article is being prepared at this time; hopefully, it will be a good means to acquaint our overseas friends with our organization, its aims and accomplishments.

Through personal contacts in the U.S. and abroad, committee members are able to cooperate closely with the ISF, which meets every other year and attracts the greatest number of participants the world over, including many from the U.S. Attending these meetings affords the opportunity to meet personally many foreign scientists and cement a closer relationship between them and AOCS. Along these lines, Chairman Marshack was privileged to work with Walter Lundberg on the organization of the joint AOCS-ISF meeting in Chicago in Fall 1970.

The committee currently cooperates with Robert Reinert on the exchange of abstracts from various foreign publications, because this matter often comes up in discussions with colleagues abroad. It also assists the Advertising Committee in its quest for foreign advertising accounts for *JAOCS* and *Lipids*. Whenever committee members travel abroad, they act as good will ambassadors as an extension of the Public Relations and Membership committees. They also work with the Program Committee in the organization of symposia on foreign operations, which are planned at some AOCS conventions, using their international connections to bring in distinguished foreign speakers.

Indirectly, and as a result of the many aspects of its activities, the committee is instrumental in bringing together for the first time American and/or foreign scientists with the corresponding secretaries abroad, thus contributing to the ever expanding interconnecting network for the exchange of ideas and information throughout the world which are of particular interest to our industry.

Seed and Meal Analysis Committee

Promotion of the development and standardization of test methods and sampling procedures for oilseeds, oilseed meals, and flours is the scope of the Seed and Meal Analysis Committee.

Although this technical committee was established in

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1944, work on methods for analysis of seed and meal had begun many years before. In 1947, the committee conducted a "survey of experiences"; that is, the committee exchanged ideas on methodology preliminary to proposing better methods of analysis. Many gaps were found in the methods, and there was little information as to their accuracy.

In 1948 the committee delved further into soybean analytical problems, reporting on soy flour sampling, sieving methods, lecithin in flour, absorption in flour and crude fiber. Subcommittees were formed to study methods for peanut meal and tung fruit and meal. Work was initiated on copra and castor, and results were published.

During the past several years, methods for sunflower and aflatoxins have been added. In addition, many have been updated and improved.

The committee currently consists of chairman Marion E. Whitten and members-at-large E.A. Christensen, W.T. Coleman, E.R. Hahn, W.J. Johnson, and J.M. Riddlehuber.

The subcommittee on Mycotoxins (chaired by L.A. Goldblatt) is very active and continues to do excellent work in conjunction with other technical societies (AOAC and AACC). The Sunflower Subcommittee (chaired by J.A. Robertson) and Sampling Subcommittee (M.E. Whitten) are also especially active at this time. Other subcommittees include Fiber Determination (W.H. Dory), Gossypol (W.A. Pons, Jr.), and Oil Extraction Studies (J.M. Riddlehuber). Subcommittee members are listed in the latest AOCS directory.

JAOCS News

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