

from Washington



Joint hearings on food labeling have been scheduled in five cities between Aug. 22 and Oct. 26 by three federal agencies – The Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Trade Commission.

Current laws and regulations have been created in response to specific situations. The new hearings apparently are the first phase of an attempt to develop a standard labeling policy. Specific topics will be: ingredient labeling, nutritional and dietary labeling, open date labeling, imitation and substitute foods, food fortification, food labels, and safe and suitable ingredients.

Dates and sites for the hearings are:

- Aug. 22-23, Century II Theater, 225 W. Douglas, Wichita, KS.
- Sept. 18-19, Little Rock Convention Center, Robinson Auditorium, Markham and Broadway, Little Rock, AR.
- Sept. 27-28, HEW Auditorium, 330 Independence Ave. NW, Washington, DC.
- Oct. 12-13, Fremont Building, 215 Fremont St., EPA Conference Room, 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA.
- Sept. 25-26, Howard Johnson's 57 Motel, 200 Stuart St., Boston, MA.

Each hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m.; all seven topics are to be open for comments at each hearing. Each person or organization will be allowed to speak once during the five hearings, with preference given to consumers with no organizational affiliations.

The *Federal Register* notice (Friday, June 9, 1978, p. 25296) announcing the hearings was followed by a printed discussion of each topic. This material is available from the FDA Hearing Clerk, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. The notice said additional copies could be obtained from FDA offices in most major metropolitan areas or by contacting Taylor Quinn, Bureau of Foods (HFF-300), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20240 (202-245-1243).

Persons wishing to speak are asked to send a notice of participation to Mr. Quinn to aid scheduling, but such notices are not mandatory.

The Environmental Protection Agency has published a final rule exempting sodium chlorate from the requirements of a tolerance for residue in or on cottonseed, safflower seed, soybeans, and sunflower seeds, among other crops, when used as a defoliant, desiccant, or fungicide. The new rule combines two previous exemptions. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, June 7, p. 24692.

The FDA on June 16 published a notice in the *Federal Register* saying it planned to hold public hearings to determine if soy protein isolates and three other substance categories should be regarded as GRAS (generally recognized as safe). For use of food grade soy protein isolates, the FDA said that while its safety review indicated there was no evidence of danger at their present use levels, additional studies are needed. For soy protein isolates used in food packaging materials, the FDA said its review indicates no hazards at present levels or in reasonable, foreseeable use. Persons who wished to speak at a hearing were

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asked to submit name and topic by July 17. A date for the hearing was expected to be set sometime after that. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, June 16, 1978, p. 26132.

The Department of Labor has announced that the maximum permissible level of cotton dust in cottonseed oilmills will be 500 micrograms of lint-free respirable cotton dust per cubic meter of air averaged over eight hours. The cottonseed mill limit was included in a general OSHA standard. Details available from OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210.

DGF to meet Oct. 8-13 in Aachen

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fettwissenschaft (German Society for Study of Fats) will hold its annual meeting Oct. 8-13, 1978, in Aachen, Germany. Scientific sessions will include papers on extraction, refining, and manufacture of fats and oils; equipment manufacture and plant construction; ecology; pollution control; job safety; instrumentation (gas chromatography, NMR, mass spectrometry, and others); filtration; and others. The conference will include an exhibition.

Information about the meeting is available from Dr. H. Stage, Emdener Strasse 10, 5000 Köln 60, Germany. Potential exhibitors should contact Norbert Muckl & Engelbert Fleischer, Bismarckstrasse 87, 5100 - Aachen, Germany.

The conference will be held in a new facility at the technical college in Aachen.