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## Meetings

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### AOAC spring registration begins

Registration forms and program details for the AOAC Spring Workshop, April 7-10, 1980, in St. Louis, MO, are available from the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC), 1111 N. 19th St., Suite 210, Arlington, VA 22209.

The program will include sessions on the environment and mycotoxins; pesticides; environment and residue

analysis; odor-flavor behavior and instrumentation; feeds and food chemistry minerals and proximate analysis, microbiology, fermented meats; fertilizers; drug stability; forensic toxicology; brewing; cosmetics; drugs; and other topics. Preregistration is \$50, on-site is \$55. The program will be at Stouffer's Riverfront Towers.

The AOAC also has issued a call for papers for its 94th annual meeting to be held Oct. 20-23, 1980, at the Marriott Hotel, Twin Bridges, in Washington, DC. The meeting is concerned with current developments in analytical methodology pertaining to agricultural, environmental and public health.

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# From Washington

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### Post-embargo soybean shipments rise

Despite President Carter's January 4 suspension of grain shipments to the Soviet Union, figures released in late January by the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed exports of U.S. grain and soybeans running substantially ahead of last year's export levels, said J. Dawson Ahalt, chairman, World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board.

Department officials are projecting total agricultural exports of \$36.4 billion in 1979/80 compared to the 1978/79 record of \$32 billion, Ahalt said. Officials also project total agricultural exports to reach a record volume of around 150 million tons, far exceeding last year's record 137.5 million tons, he added. Soybean sales abroad are forecast at 22.2 million tons, up from last year's record 20.5 million tons. Feedgrain and wheat exports also are expected to increase.

The largest purchaser of U.S. grains and soybeans again will be Japan. Europe and Latin America are other leading purchasers of U.S. grain and soybeans. Based on current projections, Mexico, China, Egypt and Spain are expected to import more U.S. grains than had earlier been expected.

Factors that would tend to keep soybean shipments up include the record harvest in the United States and the price drop that occurred immediately following the embargo. A strike at Lake Superior ports caused a backlog of sunflower and soybean loadings that may have led to later shipment of soybeans than normal.

### Herbicide experiment approved

The EPA has granted an experimental use permit for the herbicide alachlor to be used on corn and soybeans to evaluate weed control. The permit was issued to the Monsanto Company and is limited to 10,000 lb of chemical on 2,500 acres of land. Expiration date is Dec. 11, 1980. For comments or more information, contact the Product Manager (PM), Registration Division (TS-767), Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460, or see the *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 11, 1980, p. 2390.

### Crop insurance expanded

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has amended the 1980 regulations to include additional counties in the crop insurance program. The ruling applies to cotton, peanut, soybean, sunflower and other crops. Details are in the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1979, p. 75371.

**GRAS removal proposed**

An FDA finding that gum guaiac is no longer used directly in food has prompted termination of a proposed GRAS status for the additive. The proposal was listed in the July 28, 1979 *Federal Register*. For more information, contact Corbin I. Miles, Bureau of Foods (HFF-335), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or see the *Federal Register*, Jan. 4, 1980, p. 1085.

**Indirect food additive petitions**

The FDA has received petitions for the following indirect food additives:

2-Sulfoethyl methacrylate as adhesive component in food packaging, filed by the Dow Chemical Co.

Antistatic agent in polypropylene films in food manufacturing, filed by Toray Industries, Inc.

Octadecyl 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-hydrocinnamate as an antioxidant or stabilizer in olefin polymer food packaging, requested by Ciba-Geigy Corp.

The FDA issued a final rule amending food additive regulations to include the safe use of laminated food containers capable of withstanding heat sterilization. A petition had been filed by Emser Industries and appeared in the June 23, 1979, *Federal Register*.

More information is in the *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 11, 1980, p. 2399, and Tuesday, Jan. 15, 1980, pp. 2841-42 and 2909.

The FDA has received petitions for GRAS status for the following indirect additives to food packaging:

Ethylene-vinyl acetate-carbon monoxide terpolymer as an adhesive, requested by E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.

1,3,5-Triethylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazine as an antimicrobial agent, R.T. Vanderbilt Co., Inc.

**Slimicide approved**

The FDA has amended the food additive regulations to include 2-(p-hydroxyphenyl) glyoxylohydroximoyl chloride in the category of safe slimicides. This chemical is used primarily in cardboard and other paper products manufactured for food packaging. For further information: Gerad McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DE 20204, or the *Federal Register*, Friday, Dec. 21, 1979, p. 75627.

**Lubricant adopted**

Pentaerythritol adipate stearate has been approved by the FDA for its lubrication properties in the manufacture of vinyl chloride and other semi-rigid articles used in food processing. Specifications for this chemical are in the *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 4, 1980, p. 1018. For more information, contact Gerad L. McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204.

**CTFA list recognized**

The FDA has amended the cosmetic ingredient labeling regulations by recognizing part of the second edition of the Cosmetic Ingredient Dictionary published by the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, Inc. (CTFA). Supplements and new editions of other sources presently recognized as sources of ingredient names for cosmetic manufacturing will be fully accepted by the FDA. CTFA had petitioned the FDA to recognize the second edition of the dictionary. For more information, contact: Heinz J. Eiermann, Bureau of Foods (HFF-a40), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or see the *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 18, 1980, p. 3574.