
Industry News

NAS report on diet, health released

A National Academy of Science report on diet and disease has said all-inclusive recommendations on diet are "scientifically unsound."

Single copies of the report, issued May 28 by the NAS Food and Nutrition Board, are available by calling 202-393-8100 and asking for the Food and Nutrition Board.

An Associated Press report said the panel specifically criticized recommendations that low-cholesterol, low-fat diets may prevent heart disease, a generality that does not necessarily apply to healthy people. The American Heart Association immediately defended its recommendation for low-cholesterol, low-saturated fat diets. The NAS panel did note that a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet would not harm healthy persons if the diet is nutritionally balanced.

The Food and Nutrition Board said it has not been proven that lowering the levels of blood cholesterol through dietary control will cut heart disease, although persons in high-risk categories may benefit. Although high blood cholesterol increases with the risk of heart disease, the panel said the connection with dietary cholesterol is unclear.

"The (food and nutrition) board considers it scientifically unsound to make single, all-inclusive recommendations to the public regarding intakes of energy, protein, fat, cholesterol, carbohydrate, fiber and sodium," the report said.

The board is the group that develops "Recommended Dietary Allowances" for vitamins and nutrients used by government and industry. Chairman is Dr. Alfred E. Harper of the University of Wisconsin. □

Codex vegetable protein unit to meet

The first meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Vegetable Proteins will be held Nov. 3-7, 1980, in Ottawa, Canada.

The FAO/WHO-sponsored Codex Alimentarius Commission has instructed the committee "to elaborate definitions and worldwide standards for vegetable protein products deriving from soya beans, cottonseed, groundnuts, cereals and from other vegetable sources as they come into use for human consumption, and to elaborate guidelines on utilization of such vegetable protein products in the food supply system, on nutritional requirements and safety, on labelling, and other aspects as may seem appropriate."

Dr. Norman W. Tape, director of the Food and Nutrition Service for Agriculture Canada, estimates 30 to 40 nations will send representatives to the meeting. The Codex Alimentarius decided in June 1978 to establish the vegetable protein committee; Canada has agreed to be host

government for the committee, which means the Canadians will provide a secretariat and other support. □

New corrosion investigative technique

Researchers at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) have developed a new technique for studying the corrosion of metal under organic coatings which may prove useful as a research tool for paint and other coatings manufacturers. The new method combines two corrosion measurement strategies, ellipsometry and pH changes, into a single, sensitive apparatus for nondestructive monitoring of coated metal in corrosive environments.

Preliminary studies indicate the method has application both as a basic research tool in explaining why paints and other organic coatings fail, and for the systematic laboratory testing of various anticorrosion paint systems containing chemical inhibitors.

The corrosion studies at the NBS Chemical Stability and Corrosion Division, partially funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research, were by Drs. Jerome Kruger and Joseph Ritter. □

Condea Chemie plant opens

Condea Chemie has begun production at its new fatty alcohol plant in Brunsbüttel, Germany, which can produce up to 30,000 tons annually of straight-chain fatty alcohols using vegetable oils as feedstock.

Condea Chemie is a joint affiliate of Conoco Inc. and Deutsche Texaco AG. It now has a total fatty alcohol capacity, from petroleum and natural sources, of 105,000 tons annually.

The new plant was begun in 1978 on the assumption that vegetable oils would be available in increasing quantities at stable prices and would provide a diversity of raw material for the firm's fatty alcohol operations. □

Energy-Toronto to expand

Emery Industries Ltd. of Toronto, Canada has announced a \$6 million expansion of production facilities for producing a variety of fatty acids and glycerine. The major expansion includes construction of fat-splitting and hydrogenation facilities, to be completed by 1982. □

Extractor crosses North Sea

A 78-ton Rotocel extractor for the production of vegetable oils from sunflower seed press-cake has been shipped from the United Kingdom to Cargill BV and installed in Amsterdam. The 31-foot diameter, 20-foot high vessel was erected at the Hull docks by the manufacturers, Simon-Rosedowns Ltd. of Hull, and shipped to Holland in one piece. □