

From Washington

PIK expected to reduce U.S. soybean acreage, harvest

The U.S. 1983 soybean harvest should be significantly below last year's harvest, primarily because farmers were planning to plant less soybean acreage. U.S. farmers, who could receive payment-in-kind (PIK) for reducing corn acreage, indicated in March they would participate heavily in that PIK program, planting close to 40 million fewer acres of corn and sorghum. The net result could be soybean acreage totaling about 67 million acres, compared to 72 million acres in 1982. That could mean 150 million bushels of soybean less in 1983, depending on growing and harvest conditions. The payment-in-kind program offers farmers surplus U.S. corn, wheat, cotton, rice, barley and oats if the farmers do not plant acreage to those crops that they normally would have. Farmers who do not participate in the voluntary PIK program were expected to increase corn acreage to take advantages of higher prices, probably using land that otherwise would have been planted in soybeans. A later survey by the American Soybean Association indicated soybean acreage could be as low as 64 million acres.

Wisconsin to require "imitation dairy" labeling

Wisconsin now requires imitation dairy products such as vegetable oil-based cheeses to be labeled as "an artificial dairy product." The regulations, which took effect May 1, replace ones prohibiting the sale of artificial dairy products which were struck down by the courts in the late 1970s. Details: *Food Chemical News*, March 28, 1983, pp. 3-4.

Soy isolate producers oppose tracer additive

Three manufacturers of isolated soy protein (ISP) have petitioned USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service to rescind a regulation requiring that soy isolate used in meat and poultry products contain 0.1% titanium dioxide as a food additive tracer. The petition, filed on behalf of Archer Daniels Midland Co., Grain Processing Corp. and Ralston Co., said USDA has sufficient controls over formula, labeling, processing and inventory to regulate the use of isolated soy protein and that a test method is available to determine the presence of ISP in meat and poultry products without a tracer. Details: *Food Chemical News*, March 21, 1983, pp. 37-39.

CCC sets support price for 1983 peanut crop

The Commodity Credit Corporation has set the national average price support for 1983-crop quota peanuts at the 1982 rate of \$550 a short ton. Meanwhile, Secretary of Agriculture John Block dropped the 1983 support for additional peanuts to \$185 to a short ton, from \$200 in 1982. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, March 11, 1983, pp. 10389-10390; USDA news release Feb. 15, 1983.

EPA approves tolerances for insecticide, herbicide

An Environmental Protection Agency rule has established tolerances of 0.2 parts per million (ppm) on raw peanuts and 5.0 ppm on peanut hulls for the combined residues of the insecticide acephate and its metabolites. Another EPA rule set a tolerance of 0.25 ppm of the combined residues of the herbicide alachlor and its metabolites on raw sunflowerseed.