

From Washington

FASEB panel's *trans* study expected by June 30

An ad hoc review panel of the Life Sciences Research Office, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), will make public its study on *trans* fatty acids by June 30. The report, compiled from data in the literature and from comments made to the panel, will look at *trans* fatty acids from all sources in the current U.S. food supply, the levels used in the past 20 years and levels predicted over the next five to 10 years, as well as the toxicological, physiological and nutritional effects. Speakers at the panel's February public meeting on the issue included representatives from the Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils (ISEO) and National Association of Margarine Manufacturers (NAMM) as well as Mary Enig of the University of Maryland's Biochemistry Division. Thomas Applewhite, representing ISEO, told the panel that studies linking *trans* and other isomeric fatty acids to heart disease, cancer and other health problems "have been based on tenuous hypotheses, flawed experimental protocols and/or subjective interpretations." Both he and Ronald Simpson, representing NAMM, called on the panel to adopt the conclusion of FASEB's 1976 report on the health aspects of hydrogenated soybean oil which said there was no evidence demonstrating or suggesting reasonable grounds to suspect a hazard to public health when hydrogenated soybean oil is used as a direct or indirect food additive. While Mary Enig estimated per capita U.S. consumption of fatty acids to range as high as 20 grams a day, J. Edward Hunter, speaking for ISEO, put the U.S. average at 7.6 grams a day, or perhaps lower, at 3 to 7 grams. Copies of the report will be available from FASEB's Publication Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Feb. 11, 1985, p. 26; Feb. 25, 1985, pp. 28-30.

U.S. peanut support level to be \$559/ton in 1985

USDA has set a national average support level of \$559 per short ton for 1985 crop quota peanuts, up \$9 per ton from the 1984 level. In addition, growers will receive \$148 per ton for 1985 crop additional peanuts, down \$37 a ton from the 1984 level. Additional loan collateral peanuts from the 1985 crop will be sold by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation for export edible use at no less than \$425 a ton, unchanged from 1984. Meanwhile, the proposed Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1985 as outlined by Secretary of Agriculture John Block would phase out the restrictive quota system guaranteeing a high price for peanuts produced for domestic edible use and a much lower price for non-quota peanuts exported or crushed for oil. Instead, it would set loan rates at 75% of the three-year average price, available to all producers. Those with quotas would receive a direct payment based on a declining percentage of the market prices for the preceding three years.

FDA announces study of trypsin inhibitor

The Food and Drug Administration has announced it will conduct a number of investigations during fiscal 1985 to determine the effects of trypsin inhibitor activity in soy-based foods. The investigations, to be carried out through the agency's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, will include determinations of inhibitor activity in such soy-based foods as infant formula. Details: *Food Chemical News*,

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Feb. 25, 1985, pp. 13-14. Meanwhile, foods such as infant formula, baby foods, milk and eggs will be analyzed by FDA for the incidence and residue levels of chemical contaminants. The analyses will place initial and heavy emphasis on a cross-section of infant formula. Analyzed will be the presence of selected volatile organics, organohalogen pesticides, toxic elements, aflatoxins and a variety of other potential chemical contaminants. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Feb. 11, 1985, pp. 35-36.

USDA to continue commodity advisory committees

After consulting with the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has renewed the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade and eight agricultural technical advisory committees for trade, including those for Grain and Feed, and Oilseeds and Products. Details: *Federal Register*, Feb. 25, 1985, pp. 6722-6723.

Antioxidant monograph series available

The International Life Sciences Institute/Nutrition Foundation has prepared antioxidant monographs on butylated hydroxyanisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, propyl gallate, tocopherol and tertiary butylhydroquinone. Individual monographs, costing \$200 each, or a set of five monographs for \$900, may be ordered from ILSI/NF, 1126 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.



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All volunteer papers will be presented as poster presentations. Persons who wish to make poster presentations should send an abstract by June 1, 1985, to program chairman T.L. Mounts, USDA Northern Regional Research Center, 1815 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61604 USA, or to J.P. Helme, Bio-Extraction, 66 Avenue des Champs-Élysées, 51 Rue de Pontheiu, 75008 Paris, France.