

Another major aspect of the 1986/87 crop year coming into focus is the Brazilian soybean crop. Weather has been partially unfavorable for planting and early growth in some very important areas, while others have been relatively good. It is now too late to plant any more, so it is known that acreage is reduced. It also is too late for rains which may occur in subsequent weeks to fully restore

maximum yield potential, so it is known that yield will be disappointing. Therefore, it can be anticipated that Brazil will not be the aggressive seller in export markets that it was in past years. This will be felt primarily in stronger cash basis values and, to some extent, in Chicago futures. Argentina's crop is making a good beginning, which will soften the impact of Brazil's problem. Probably the two coun-

tries combined will produce about 20 million metric tons (MT), versus 24 MT last season.

Thus it can be seen that there still are some uncertainties. These have been pointed out to explain market reactions and anticipate price performance as they are resolved. But the major unknowns of the past months have become known, and the focus is becoming clearer.

David M. Bartholomew

From Washington

Survey reveals lower fat intake

USDA's first 1985 report on its Continuing Survey of Food Intake by Individuals found that participating women ages 19-50 and their children ages 1-5 consumed slightly less fat and more carbohydrates as a percentage of their total diets in 1985, compared to 1977 figures from USDA's Nationwide Food Consumption Survey. The study reported that both women and children drank more lowfat and skim milk and consumed more grain products and soft drinks compared to 1977. Percent of calories from fat represented 37% in 1985, compared with 41% in 1977, according to USDA, while calories from carbohydrates increased to 46% from 41%. Total caloric intake rose 6%, the report said. The survey was conducted in the spring of 1985.

Copies of the report, "Women 19-50 Years and Their Children 1-5 Years, 1 Day, 1985," CSFII Report No. 85-1 (Identification No. 001-000-04458-3), can be purchased for \$4.25 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, telephone 202-783-3238. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Dec. 23, 1985, pp. 50-51.

CAST questions dietary guidelines

A task force report released in December by the Council for Agri-

cultural Science and Technology (CAST) claims that except for obese individuals, "little evidence exists indicating that for most persons dietary changes will reduce the incidence of coronary heart disease."

Noting a rapid decline in the coronary heart disease death rate since the mid-1960s, CAST said the three most important risk factors appear to be cigarette smoking, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia. However, the task force added, existing data on the connection between serum and dietary cholesterol "indicate that considerable variation exists among individuals in response to dietary cholesterol, which argues against making broad generalizations on ways of reducing serum cholesterol."

The task force also questioned efforts to lower serum cholesterol through dietary reductions, saying that significant reductions in serum cholesterol levels through dietary means "would seem to require a reduction of intake to less than 100 to 150 mg/day, or the virtual elimination of animal products from the diet." The CAST report also said studies conducted on the effects of a higher percentage of polyunsaturated fats in the diet "have not verified the desirability" of such a dietary modification; it noted that while a diet high in polyunsaturated fat did lower serum cholesterol levels, it "did not decrease significantly the incidence of coronary heart disease in many of the studies."

The report also said there is as yet insufficient evidence to establish the effects of fish oil, carbohydrates,

proteins and minerals on coronary heart disease.

The task force on diet and heart disease was chaired by Michael W. Pariza of the University of Wisconsin's Food Research Institute. Other members of the task force included AOCS members George M. Briggs of the University of California-Berkeley, David Kritchevsky of Wistar Institute, Edward C. Naber of Ohio State University and Harry E. Snyder of the University of Arkansas. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Dec. 23, 1985, pp. 25-26.

OSHA finalizes cotton dust rule

As proposed in 1983, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has amended the 1978 cotton dust standard. In the revision, the agency agreed to exclude the cottonseed processing industry from dust exposure limits. However, it stipulated that medical surveillance be provided to workers employed in the industry to assure there are no adverse effects from dust exposure. Details: *Federal Register*, Dec. 13, 1985, pp. 51120-51179.

FDA postpones Yellow 5 listing

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has postponed the closing date for the provisional listing of

From Washington

FD&C Yellow No. 5 for use in cosmetics and externally applied drugs and of its lakes for use in coloring food and ingested drugs until March 7, 1986. Regulations permanently listing the color and removing it from the provisional list are also stayed until March 7.

FDA said it postponed the date once again to allow time for completion of its evaluation of objections made to permanently list the color. For information, contact Julius Smith, telephone 202-472-5690. Details: *Federal Register*, Jan. 6, 1986, pp. 375-376.

USDA sets 1986 peanut quota

USDA has announced a national poundage quota of 1,355,500 short tons (2,711 million pounds) for the 1986 crop of peanuts, up 255,500 short tons (511 million pounds) from the 1985 level. As required by the

Food Security Act of 1985, the national poundage quota for the 1986 crop equals the amount of peanuts estimated for domestic edible, seed and related use in the 1986 marketing year.

Also, USDA has rescinded the national acreage allotment of 1,610,000 acres and the national marketing quota of 2,142,105 tons proclaimed for the 1986 crop on Nov. 14, 1985.

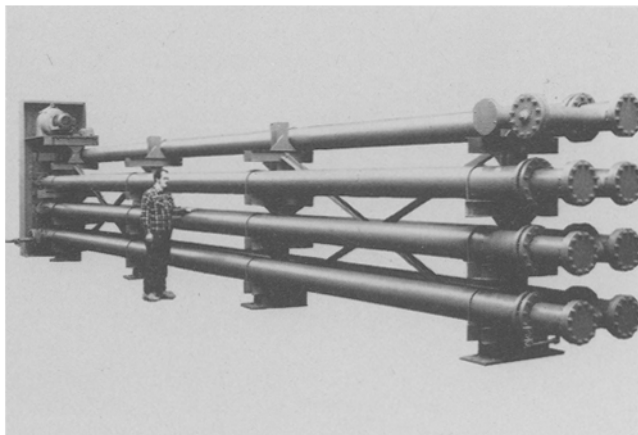
FDA: Soy drinks not for infants

FDA has warned that soy beverages not meeting infant formula standards should not be promoted for such use. In letters to the Soy Protein Council and the National Nutritional Foods Association, Sanford A. Miller, FDA's director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, has asked for the groups' cooperation in what he

termed "a matter of public health concern."

According to Curtis Coker of FDA, concern that such products were being promoted as possible substitutes for breast milk or infant formula was triggered last year after a Canadian report of an infant suffering severe malnutrition after being fed a soy drink, Edensoy, in place of an approved infant formula. A subsequent investigation by FDA officials showed sporadic promotion of such drinks in health food stores throughout the U.S. While the number of cases was not widespread, the FDA official said, there was concern that consumers could be misled when such promotion took place. Earlier in 1985, FDA also found similar promotion of two other products, Kama-Mil and Nutra-Milk, produced in California in a small operation. "We don't want to see another child suffering from malnutrition. What we are trying to do is provide a level of awareness so that this promotion does not take place," Coker said.

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