

## Consumer facts on fats, oils

A report on U.S. consumers' knowledge about fats and oils has been submitted to the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

The survey, conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in association with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, found that about 10% of the approximately 4,000 consumers polled knew that hydrogenation makes fats more saturated. More than 20% questioned said hydrogenation makes fats less saturated, while the rest said they did not know what hydrogenation did.

Other findings: about 20% knew all types of fats provide the same calorie content, while more than twice that number did not know that fact; about one-third said cholesterol was found only in animal-origin fats and oils, while twice that number did not know.

Copies are expected to be available in April or May from the National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Lipid Metabolism Atherogenesis Branch, 7550 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20892, USA.

## Cotton dust standard hearing

A hearing on the cotton dust standard for cotton oil mills will be held Friday, Jan. 16, 1987, by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.

The National Cottonseed Products Association's (NCPA) Washington attorneys Carl Vogt and Joyce Reback will present oral arguments in opposition to the standard.

## USDA to boost sunflowerseeds

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in November an-

nounced plans to launch a \$3-million program to expand U.S. exports of sunflowerseed oil and other sunflowerseed products to Japan, Mexico, Venezuela and Portugal.

USDA said funds would be used to promote oil identified as 100% sunflowerseed oil and to provide technical assistance to processors to insure that a quality product is being made.

Promotional activities will be carried out through a cooperative agreement between USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the National Sunflower Association, a commodity organization representing the sunflowerseed industry.

The Targeted Export Assistance (TEA) program will be administered by USDA in accordance with the Food Security Act of 1985.

## New closing for Red 3

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in November postponed the closing date for the provisional listing of FD&C Red 3 for use in coloring cosmetics and externally applied drugs and its lakes for use in coloring food and ingested drugs until Nov. 3, 1987.

The final rule, published in the Nov. 3, 1986, *Federal Register*, pp. 39856-39857, was made to provide time for a scientific review panel to complete its report on the color. The previous closing date was Nov. 3, 1986.

In a preliminary report, the review panel has told FDA that Red 3 may be a secondary carcinogen, but that the mechanism has not been determined.

## FDA readies labeling rules

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in its semiannual regulatory agenda published in the Oct. 27, 1986, *Federal Register*, announced plans to publish a proposed rule on food labelling for

cholesterol and fatty acid content sometime in November.

According to FDA, the proposal would allow relevant, truthful and nonmisleading claims about cholesterol and fatty acid on product labels for consumer use.

However, FDA did not set a date for finalizing its proposed policy permitting health claims on food labels. Details: *Federal Register*, Oct. 27, 1986, pp. 38382, 38385.

Meanwhile, General Nutrition Inc. of Pittsburgh on Oct. 31, 1986, pleaded guilty to misbranding charges concerning Gammaprim, an evening primrose oil product. According to an account in *Food Chemical News*, Gammaprim was labeled as a food supplement but was marketed as a drug as defined by the federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act because store employees used a booklet describing research on the therapeutic qualities of oil of evening primrose to help sell the product. Details are published in *Food Chemical News*, Nov. 10, 1986, pp. 8-9.

Also, FDA will not take action against manufacturers of fish oil supplements who make health claims for the products, at least until the agency issues a health claims policy, an FDA official has said. Allan L. Forbes, director of the Office of Nutrition and Food Sciences in FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, told participants at the 1986 Journalists' Conference on food safety and nutrition held Oct. 30-31 in New York City that the agency would not take legal action on such claims until it has a clear-cut policy. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Nov. 10, 1986, pp. 13-15.

## Update on dietary fat

Researchers at the University of Texas Health Science Center have reported that a diet containing 20% of calories from fat resulted in a lower level of high density lipoproteins (HDL) than did the 30% fat diet recommended for the general public by the American Heart Association.

In an article in the Nov. 7, 1986, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Scott M. Grundy and colleagues said they had observed that the 30% fat diet decreased concentrations of total cholesterol and low density lipoproteins (LDL). Details: *Food Chemical News*, Nov. 10, 1986, pp. 18-19.

Meanwhile, the National Cancer Institute in late October issued a report, "Cancer Control Objectives for the Nation: 1985-2000." Calling for increased efforts against poor diet as one of three major factors in cutting cancer deaths in half by the year 2000, the report recommended reducing dietary fat and increasing daily consumption of fiber by eating more fresh fruits, grains and vegetables. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Nov. 3, 1986, p. 2.

Department of Health and Human Services' data for 1976-1980 shows more than 28% of the U.S. adult population was overweight, and nearly 22% of adults had serum cholesterol levels defined as "high risk," according to a report in *Nutrition Week*, published by the Community Nutrition Institute. Details: *Nutrition Week*, Oct. 2, 1986.

Meanwhile, a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Carbohydrate Nutrition Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, said that in its studies, cholesterol levels were lowered when participants were placed on a test diet of less fat, cholesterol and salt and more fiber, and where complex carbohydrates supplied twice as many calories as sugars. However, the report said, circulating cholesterol increased when the carbohydrate makeup was reversed, with sugars supplying twice as many calories as complex carbohydrates. Details:

*Food Chemical News*, Oct. 20, 1986, p. 30.

In other developments, Merck & Co. Inc. in November announced intentions of filing a New Drug Application requesting FDA approval to market lovastatin, a Merck product designed to lower high levels of serum cholesterol.

## False reading for sulfites

Ralston Purina has informed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that its sulfite-free isolated soyprotein responds "false positive" to the Monier-Williams analysis for sulfite content.

As a result, the firm asked the agency for an advisory opinion that sulfite labeling not be required for its isolates. "Unless the requested interpretation is provided, these false sulfite responses would mandate sulfite labelling which would, at the least, be false and misleading to consumers and possibly lead to severe and unjustified adverse impact upon Ralston Purina Co.," the firm told FDA. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Oct. 20, 1986, pp. 13-14.

In other FDA business, the agency has amended its food additive order for sucrose fatty acid esters to clear the use of dimethyl sulfoxide and isobutyl alcohol as solvents used in their preparation. Details: *Federal Register*, Nov. 5, 1986, pp. 40160-40161.

Also, FDA has affirmed sodium oleate and sodium palmitate are generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as indirect food ingredients for use in paper and paperboard products used in food packaging, and sodium

oleate is GRAS also for use in lubricants with incidental food contact. Details: *Federal Register*, Oct. 28, 1986, pp. 39372-39373.

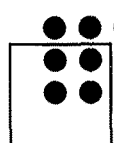
## USDA affirms peanut program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in November affirmed determinations made a year earlier for 1986-crop peanuts. It also ruled that poundage quotas and price support will be used for the 1986-1990 crops.

USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service said the decision was based on a referendum of peanut growers earlier in the year, in which 97.4% of those voting favored continuation of quotas and price support. For the 1986-87 marketing year, a national poundage quota of 1,355,500 short tons was set based on 1,121,000 tons for domestic use, 99,000 tons for seed and 135,500 tons for related uses such as crushing residual.

In a second document, USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) set the national average support rate for 1986-crop quota peanuts at \$607.47 per ton, up from \$559 per ton in 1985; a national average support rate for 1986-crop additional peanuts at \$149.75 per ton; and a CCC minimum export edible sales price for additional peanuts at \$400 per ton. Details: *Federal Register*, Nov. 12, 1986, pp. 40992-40996.

Meanwhile, Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng Oct. 31 announced a loan level of 52.25 cents a pound for the base quality of 1987-crop upland cotton.



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