

Plans made for 1973-74 Aflatoxin Check Samples

The USDA, the Smalley Committee of the AOCS and the National Cottonseed Products Assn. are planning suitable check samples to help control the accuracy of aflatoxin assays by chemists serving the oilseed processing industry throughout the world. Present plans are tentative and subject to change as experience is obtained; therefore, no fees will be assessed. Each agency will absorb its expenses.

Based upon this season's experience, next season the Aflatoxin Check Sample subcommittee of the Smalley Committee will offer a series of samples with an appropriate fee. Present program supervision is: Samples, procurement, preparation, Marion E. Whitten, Agr. Marketing Inst., ARS, USDA, Bldg. 309, ARC, Beltsville, Md. 20705; administration enrollment, Garlon Harper, Educational Director, National Cottonseed Products Assn., Box 12023, Memphis, Tenn. 38112; data processing, statistics, W.T. Coleman, chairman, Smalley Committee, 4074 Fairmount, Abilene, Tex. 79605; Aflatoxin Check Sample Subcommittee, Chairman, John Daniel McKinney, Ranchers Cotton Oil Mill Co., Box 248, Fresno, Calif. 93708.

Tentative plans are to provide ca. 8 cottonseed meal and ca. 4 peanut (ground nut) meal to collaborators over a period of ca. 6 months for assay by AOCS Official Methods

Aa 8-71T and Ab 6-68, respectively. AOCS methods are paraphrases of equivalent methods published by the AOAC. Each sample will vary independently in its naturally occurring mycotoxin content, selected to be in the order of 100 micrograms per kg or less. Samples will be shipped for assay in pairs for improved statistics. The pairs will not be duplicates.

It is recognized that the principal concern of the industry is for control of raw material quality by oilseed assay. But with the present state of the art, oilseeds do not furnish practical, convenient samples. Oilseed meals were selected as a compromise.

In most commodities, as most oilseeds, aflatoxin naturally appears in very few particles at levels several thousand-fold the mean content. For this reason, unprepared samples are inconveniently large for worldwide distribution, in the order of 10 to 25 kg. When such samples are prepared for reduction to representative portions for individual assay, the aflatoxin in the oilseed pulp is unstable, requiring accurate assays to be started in a matter of hours. Until we learn to stabilize such preparations, oilseed meal is to be preferred. Its aflatoxin is relatively stable. It is easy to grind and mix into representative portions. Except for the higher oil content, it provides the analyst with the challenge of interferences similar to the parent oilseed. ■

Special report on new soy food developments

A special report on new soy food developments has recently been published by G.D. Rosen, a commercial development consultant in proteins, feed additives, oilseeds and effluent treatment.

The title of the book is "Current Status of Specialty Soya Protein Products in the U.S.A. (1973)." More than 100 products are described with critical commentary and tabular comparisons in the report's 27 tables. ■

Call for Nominations 1974 Honored Student Awards

Nominations are solicited and will be accepted until December 1, 1973, for the 1974 AOCS Honored Student Awards. Graduate students at any North American institution of higher learning, in any area of science dealing with fats and lipids, who are doing research toward an advanced degree and who are interested in the areas of science and technology fostered by this Society, are eligible. The student must be a registered graduate student at the time of application. To receive the award he must remain a registered graduate student, and must not have received his degree or begun career employment, prior to the AOCS meeting he is to attend. Selection of awardees is on the basis of educational qualifications and performance.

The awards provide funds equal to travel costs plus \$75.00 to permit attendance at a national meeting of the AOCS. In 1974 these meetings will be held April 28-May 1 in Mexico City and September 29-October 2 in Philadelphia. Students will be awarded travel to the nearer meeting to allow as many awards as possible from the available funds.

Nomination forms may be obtained from AOCS headquarters (508 S. Sixth, Champaign, Ill. 61820) or from the chairman of the Honored Student Award Committee. Completed nominations should be returned before December 1, 1973, to: Ralph T. Holman, HSA Committee Chairman, The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, Austin, Minn. 55912. ■