

The Environmental Protection Agency has approved a 0.02 ppm tolerance for the pesticide aldicarb on soybeans. The tolerance was requested by Union Carbide Corp., which produces the insecticide and nematocide. Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1978, p. 47729.

The FDA has said that objections to permitting use of roasted or cooked, glandless cottonseed kernels in baked goods, candy or snack foods are not of sufficient merit to bar such use or amend the pertinent regulations. The FDA regulations permitting such use originally were published in 1976; the FDA's latest comments were in response to the objections. A complaint from the National Cottonseed Products Association about pesticide rules in the original regulations has been resolved. Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1978, p. 43556.

The U.S. Department of Energy has begun a series of industrial energy conservation workshops around the nation aimed at improving the department's monitoring of industry's effort to improve energy efficiency through energy conservation and consumption reports filed with the department. The workshops are open to the public; agendas and further information for each workshop may be obtained from O. Cleveland Laird, Jr., DOE, 666 11th St. NW, Room 735, Washington, DC 20001 (202-724-3456) at least ten days before the workshop. Dates and places: Dec. 14-15, Sheraton Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, GA; Jan. 4-5, Sheraton Houston Hotel, Houston, TX; Jan. 25-26, Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Chicago; Feb. 12-13, New York Sheraton Hotel, New York City; Feb. 22-23, Sheraton Palace Hotel, San Francisco. Details: Federal Register, Thursday, Oct. 19, 1978, p. 48682.

The Food and Drug Administration has amended its standards of identity for bakery products to remove limitations on use of mono- and diglycerides of fat-forming fatty acids, diacetyl tartaric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides of fat-forming fatty acids, propylene glycol mono- and diesters of fat-forming fatty acids and similar ingredients. FDA said technical considerations make it unlikely that excessive amounts would be used. Details: Federal Register, Friday, Oct. 13, 1978, p. 47177. ●

Committee Spotlights

Hydrogenated Oils Subcommittee

Action taken by the Hydrogenated Oils Subcommittee in 1978 included:

Submission to William Link, editor of Analytical Methods, of a minor revision of the procedure No. Ca 17-76, "Activity of Hydrogenation Catalysts," was made to incorporate metric measures.

The preparation and review of a procedure for determining the selectivity of a catalyst was undertaken. The procedure contained a computer program provided by the Northern Regional Research Center of the Department of Agriculture. Since it was decided that the method should also include a means for graphical presentation of the data, if a computer is not available, additions are currently being made in method. It is expected that following circulation to the committee members of the revised procedure, approval will be forthcoming for a recommendation next spring to add the method to the AOCs Methods Book in the Recommended Practices Section.

The nominal value of the nickel content of the Standard Catalyst was established by a small collaborative study to be 26%.

Investigation and potential incorporation into one method is planned for both a gravimetric and a spectro-

photometric measurement for establishing the filterability of a catalyst. The gravimetric procedure will permit the use of the procedure in less technologically equipped laboratories. Completion of this study is scheduled for next summer.

The present membership of the Hydrogenated Oils Subcommittee is as follows: A.E. Walkling, chairman; R.R. Allen, H. Basu, R.A. Becker, E.W. Black, J.P. Duffy, E.N. Gerhardt, R.C. Hastert, S. Koritala, J. McNaught, F.C. Naughton, A. Petropoulos, B.F. Szuhaj, J.R. Taylor, R.J. Zielinski.

Arthur E. Walkling
Subcommittee Chairman ●

CPI up? Don't blame fats and oils

Fats and oils in home-cooked meals comprise a relatively small part of the food costs that go into computing the U.S. Department of Labor's consumer price index (CPI) each month.

Expenditures for all foods — those eaten at home and those eaten elsewhere — total 17.7 per cent. About 30 per cent of food costs are for foods outside the home. Foods eaten at home total 12.235 per cent of the consumer price index; fats and oils are 2.94 per cent of that 12.235 per cent, or 0.360 per cent of the total consumer price index, according to reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Thus, a 10 per cent increase in the cost of fats and oils foods pushes the overall consumer price index up about 0.04 per cent. Figures are not available on what contribution fats and oils provide in the cost of foods eaten outside the home.

Since 1967, the average change in retail food prices for fats and oils foods has approximately doubled. Margarine that cost 28 cents a pound in 1967 now costs between 50 and 60 cents a pound. That increase in fats and oils prices has pushed up the consumer price index about three-fourths of one per cent.

The largest single item in the consumer price index is shelter, which accounts for 29.2 per cent of the total; transportation is second at 18.0 per cent; food is third at 17.7. Other lesser ranking factors include health, education and clothing.

While retail food prices rose about 76.8 per cent in the United States between 1970 and March 1978, they were rising faster in Canada, 99.4 per cent; Australia, 103.3; France, 109.1; Sweden, 111; Denmark, 116; Japan, 118.5; Greece, 180.4; Italy, 180.5; Spain, 195.7, and the United Kingdom, 203.2. Countries with lower increases in food prices included Belgium, 76 percent; Germany, 45.5; Switzerland, 44.8; and The Netherlands, 16.3. ●

TABLE I

Relative Importance of Food Groups in the
Consumer Price Index, December 1977^a

Consumer Price Index — All Urban		
		Percent
Food	17.718	
Food at home	12.235	100.00
Cereals and bakery products	1.530	12.51
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	3.943	32.22
Dairy products	1.654	13.52
Fruits and vegetables	1.759	14.38
Sugars and sweets	0.435	3.56
Fats and oils	0.360	2.94
Nonalcoholic beverages	1.513	12.36
Other prepared foods	1.041	8.51
Food away from home	5.483	

^aSource: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics