Industry News

USDA tests pyridazione application to reduce linolenic acid

Two USDA scientists, Judith B. St. John and Meryl N. Christiansen, will attempt to reduce linolenic acid content in soy oil by applying pyridazione chemicals to the growing soybean plant. These chemicals have been demonstrated to block linolenic acid synthesis in the roots and leaves of several cereal crops and cotton. St. John and Christiansen, both researchers at the USDA Science and Education Administration facilities in Beltsville, MD, theorize that these chemicals might have the same effect in soybeans.

Soy oil, which accounts for about 40% of the value of the soybean crop, is at a competitive disadvantage in the market place because it contains a relatively high level of linolenic acid, a naturally occurring fatty acid which causes rancid flavor or spoilage of unprocessed oil. Presently, linolenic acid is reduced from 7% to an acceptable 3% by hydrogenation, but the process is costly.

The three-year study is being partially funded (about 60%) by a grant from the American Soybean Association Research Foundation (ASARF), totaling $45,000. □

Grindsted starts U.S. plant

Grindsted Products has begun production in its new Dimodan factory located at Industrial Airport, KS, 30 miles southwest of Kansas City, MO. The unit produces food-grade distilled monoglycerides, emulsifiers and derivatives.

The factory is the first major production unit outside Denmark for Grindsted's parent firm, Grindsted Products A/S. The firm produces food additives, vitamins and pharmaceuticals in Grenaa and Grinsted, Denmark. □

From Washington

Hearing set for Oct. 6 on revising food labeling

The Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Federal Trade Commission have scheduled a public hearing for Oct. 6, 1980, on proposals to revise food labeling regulations.

The agencies are considering what information should be on labels, and in what form it should be printed. At the Oct. 6 meeting, a consultant will report on several alternatives and seek further suggestions. Three later meetings will be held (1) to review possible designs and discuss a proposed plan to test consumer reaction to specific proposals; (2) to discuss a specific consumer research plan; and (3) to discuss results of the consumer research plan and the labeling system that fared best in the consumer testing.

The entire program is expected to be completed by late 1981, according to the notice in the *Federal Register* of Tuesday, July 8, 1980, p. 45962.

Lead acetate deadline extended

The Food and Drug Administration has extended until Oct. 31, 1980, its self-imposed deadline for deciding whether to permit the continued use of lead acetate as a color additive for cosmetics applied to hair on the scalp. Details: *Federal Register,* Tuesday, June 24, 1980, p.42255.

Tallow to be used in fabric softener

Grestco-Dyes & Chemicals Inc. of Thomasville, NC, has filed a premanufacture notice with the federal EPA to produce a fabric softener for use on knitted and woven fabrics for industrial use. The softener's chemical identity as listed in the notice is "amide from diethylenetriamine and tallow ester compounds with diethylsulfate." Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, May 7, 1980, p. 30130.

Tolerance extended for cotton insecticide

The EPA has renewed until May 8, 1981, the temporary tolerance for residues of the insecticide oxamyl (methyl-N,N dimethyl-N-[methylcarbamoyl)oxy] -1-thiooxamimidate in or on cottonseed at 0.2 part per million (ppm). The renewal was requested by E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. Details: *Federal Register,* June 13, 1980, p. 40219.