
From Washington

U.S. soy oil exports may fall by 35%

U.S. soybean oil exports for the 1980/81 season are expected to total about 1,750 million pounds, a decline of 35% from the previous year, according to the USDA May 1981 *Fats and Oils Outlook & Situation* report.

"Despite relatively low soybean oil prices, domestic use and exports during the first five months of the marketing year were down 4 and 45 percent, respectively," the report said. "Increased competition from Brazil, high stocks of soybean oil around the world, and ample supplies of relatively cheaper competitive oils are contributing to a significant decline in world demand for soybean oil."

Ending stocks for Sept. 30, the end of the marketing year, are forecast at 1,860 million pounds, up 54% from the previous year. Total U.S. crush is expected to be down 7% because of narrower crushing margins, reflecting lower oil and meal prices.

The sunflower seed crush for 1980/81, however, is expected to be a record 815,000 metric tons.

Sunflower acreage almost 4 million acres

U.S. sunflower acreage for 1981 will be approximately 3.6 million acres for oil-type seed, and about 316,000 acres for other varieties. An incorrect figure was printed in this column in the May *JAOCS*; the total supply of sunflower seed expected for the year, 2.9 million metric tons, was correct in that article.

FDA proposes margarine labeling change

The FDA has accepted a petition from the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers (NAMM) proposing that manufacturers not be required to print the name and place of business of manufacturers, packers or distributors on wrappers for interior units of a multi-unit retail package. The individual units, such as quarter sticks of margarine in a one-pound package, must not be intended for individual retail sale. The proposed change would require a statement that the individual unit is not intended for retail sale, but other labeling requirements would remain. FDA is accepting comments on the proposal until July 14. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, May 15, 1981, p. 26790.

Soybean meal contract changes proposed

The federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission has published a proposal to change the fixed locational rates and to delete the variable freight rate component in determining delivery differentials with regard to soybean meal futures contracts. The changes were prompted by anticipated railroad deregulation and by frequent freight rate revisions. Comments on the proposed changes were sought by June 18. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, May 19, 1981, p. 27365.

Chicago Board of Trade may add medium-staple cotton

The Chicago Board of Trade has applied to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to permit trading of medium staple cotton (in units of 50,000 pounds) at the CBT. The proposed rules governing such trading were published in the *Federal Register* of Friday, May 22, 1981, p. 27988. The CFTC is accepting comments on the proposal through July 18.

Soy oil proposed as halogen stabilizer

Unitech Chemical Inc. of Chicago has petitioned the federal Food and Drug Administration to approve use of epoxidized soybean oil as a halogen stabilizer in brominated soybeans oils intended for use in foods for human consumption. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, April 28, 1981, p. 23810.