

From Washington

FDA drops proposal for olive oil standards

The FDA has dropped efforts to establish a U.S. standard for virgin olive oil, refined olive oil and refined olive-residue oil based on the recommended international Codex standard. FDA officials said there seemed to be insufficient interest or need for a U.S. standard. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Sept. 24, 1982, p. 42123.

NAMM seeks new wording in emulsifier regulations

The National Association of Margarine Manufacturers (NAMM) has amended its petition to the Food and Drug Administration concerning margarine standards to include removing limits on the amounts of emulsifiers named in the standards and substituting the phrase "safe and suitable" for the phrase "sufficient for the purposes." NAMM's original petition asked FDA to remove limits only from mono- and diglycerides and polyglycerol esters of fatty acids. NAMM also asked that the change "be made effective immediately or as of July 1, 1983." Details: *Food Chemical News*, Sept. 13, 1982, pp. 11-12.

Soybean loan rate to be \$5.02 again

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation set the preliminary loan and purchase rate for the 1982 soybean crop at \$5.02 per bushel, the minimum rate allowed by law. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1982, pp. 42599-42600.

Objections filed to change in aflatoxin limits in cottonseed

FDA's move to increase the aflatoxin action level, from 20 parts per billion (ppb) to 300 ppb, in cottonseed meal intended for beef cattle feed mixtures has elicited protests from Foremost-McKesson Foods Group, the Idaho Department of Agriculture and the governor of Hawaii. Both Foremost-McKesson and Governor George R. Ariyoshi of Hawaii have warned that the new allowance will inevitably result in contamination of dairy rations. Under existing regulations, cottonseed meal used in feed for dairy cattle may only contain up to 20 ppb aflatoxin. Meanwhile, the Idaho Department of Agriculture said Idaho requires that all cottonseed products shipped into the state be certified to contain less than 20 ppb aflatoxin. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Sept. 6, 1982, pp. 18-19; Sept. 20, 1982, p. 9.

EPA announces tolerances for insecticides in cottonseed

EPA has established a tolerance of 0.5 parts per million (ppm) for residues of the insecticide ethion and its oxygen analog in cottonseed. It also set the following tolerance levels for residues of the insecticide 0,0-diethyl 0-(2-isopropyl-6-methyl-4-pyrimidinyl) phosphorothioate: 0.2 ppm in cottonseed, 0.75 ppm in peanuts, 40 ppm in peanuts for forage, 10 ppm in peanut hay and hulls, 0.1 ppm in soybeans and soybeans for forage. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1982, pp. 42738-42740. The EPA has also adopted a food additive regulation establishing 5 ppm as the maximum residue level for the insecticide cypermethrin in cottonseed oil. EPA also established a temporary tolerance of 0.5 ppm for residues of the pesticide on cottonseed, effective June 7, 1983. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1982, pp. 39478-39479, 39610.

USDA announces program to reduce cotton acreage

USDA in September announced a 20% acreage reduction program and voluntary percent paid land diversion program for the 1983 upland cotton crop. USDA estimated the 1983 deficiency payment rate would be 12.8 cents a pound. To be eligible for program benefits, cotton producers must limit planted acreage in 1983 to no more than 80% of the farm's upland cotton base and devote cropland equal to 25% of the 1983 planted acreage for conservation.