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# From Washington

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## **Margarine revisions proposed**

The *Federal Register* reported Thursday, Jan. 28, 1982, that the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the USDA has introduced a proposal to revise the present standard for margarine or oleomargarine containing animal fats as contained in the federal meat inspection regulations. The revision is needed, says FSIS, to avoid inconsistencies between USDA and FDA standards and to establish a standard similar to the international standard of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Among the revisions proposed is the inclusion of TBHQ (tertiary butyl hydroquinone) as a permitted antioxidant in margarine; the specific identification of nutritive carbohydrate sweeteners, emulsifiers, preservatives, antioxidants, color additives, acidulants, and alkalines that may be used in margarine; and the deletion of the provision that would have required the special labeling of any flavor which did not simulate butter. National Assn. of Margarine Manufacturers Director S.F. Riepma points out that margarines and oleomargarines made from animal fats represent 5-6% of all margarine produced. Dr. Riepma says that NAMM has been pushing for such revisions since the early 1970s.

## **FDA extends deadline for margarine labeling compliance**

The FDA has extended to July 1, 1985, the effective date for compliance with the margarine labeling regulation amendment that requires a general identifying phrase, such as "vegetable oil blend," to appear before the listing of sources of fats and oils on margarine labels. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 22, 1982, p. 3108.

## **NCPA estimates 1981 cottonseed production**

The National Cottonseed Products Association, in its newsletter of January 20, 1982, estimates total U.S. cottonseed production for 1981 to be 6.2 million short tons, based on USDA cotton production forecasts. After deducting 5% for planting and seed, there should be 5.89 million short tons available for crush, says NCPA. Their estimate was based on a three-year production average of seed/bale (793 lbs/bale).

## **Soy oil yield declines**

Citing low soy oil yields of 10.55 pounds per bushel for October-December of last year, the USDA estimates that oil yield per bushel of soybeans crushed will reach only 10.7 pounds per bushel for 1981, compared to a more typical 10.9. Details: *USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*, Jan. 26, 1982, p. 1.

## **USDA institutes peanut poundage quota**

The USDA has withdrawn the national acreage allotment and national marketing quota for 1981-crop peanuts and has established instead a national poundage quota of 1,200,000 tons. USDA's action is in response to the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, which amends the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to provide for poundage quotas in place of marketing quotas and acreage allotments. The 1981 Act further amends the AAA by requiring a yearly referendum of farmers engaged in the production of quota peanuts to determine whether such farmers favor poundage quotas for crops of peanuts produced in the four following calendar years. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 22, 1982, p. 3149.

- CPI for fats and oils down in December** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for fats and oils fell 0.4% from November to December of 1981, according to a Jan. 22, 1982, news release from the USDA. The drop, which is not seasonally adjusted, is a consequence of the recovery in peanut production last fall, which translated to lower wholesale and retail peanut butter prices, according to the release. Despite December's decline, the 1981 annual average price for fats and oils was up 10.7%, greater than the 7.9% increase in the annual average price for food in general and second only to the 12% increase for fruits and vegetables. Details: *USDA Major News Releases and Speeches*, Jan. 15-29, 1982, p. 32.
- Carbofuran tolerances announced** In response to requests by the FMC Corp. of Philadelphia, EPA has established feed additive regulations for the combined residues of the pesticide carbofuran and its metabolites in or on the fatty acids of soybean soapstock, and sunflower seed hulls and meal. The limit for residues in or on fatty acids of soybean soapstock is 6.0 ppm, of which not more than 1.0 ppm is carbamates, reflecting residues of 2 ppm phenolic metabolites and 0.33 ppm carbamates in alkaline soapstock. The limit for residues in or on sunflower seed hulls and meal is 1.0 ppm, of which not more than 0.5 ppm is carbamates. In a separate move, EPA increased the tolerance from the combined residues of carbofuran in or on peanuts from 0.2 ppm to 4.0 ppm. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1982, pp. 1375-76, and Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1982, p. 2863.
- Cyano tolerance set** EPA has set a tolerance of 0.1 ppm for residues of the insecticide (+) cyano (3-phenoxyphenyl) methyl (+)-4-(difluoromethoxy)- $\alpha$ -(1-methyl) benzeneacetate in or on cottonseed at 0.1 ppm, and at 0.2 ppm in cottonseed oil. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1982, pp. 616, 620.
- Oxyfluorfen limits set** EPA has established a tolerance of 0.5 ppm for the residues of the herbicide oxyfluorfen and its metabolites containing the diphenyl ether linkage in or on cottonseed. The limit for the herbicide and its metabolites in or on cottonseed oil and mint oil has been set at 0.25 ppm. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1982, pp. 1374, 1380.
- Pesticide petitions submitted** Several companies have asked EPA to establish tolerances for pesticide chemicals in or on oilseeds. BASF Wyandotte Corp. proposes that tolerances for residues of the herbicide fluchloralin in or on sunflower seed be set at 0.05 ppm. Kalo Agricultural Chemicals Inc. petitions that tolerances for the combined residues of the fungicide hexachlorophene or its monosodium salt in or on peanuts be set at 0.05 ppm; soybeans, 0.5 ppm. Ciba-Geigy Corp. requests that tolerances for the combined residues of the herbicide metolachlor and its metabolites in or on safflower seed be set at 0.1 ppm. The Upjohn Corp. proposes that a tolerance of 0.5 ppm be established for the combined residues of the fungicide 2,6-dichloro-4-nitroaniline in or on peanuts. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1982, pp. 1408-09, and Wednesday, Jan. 27, 1982, p. 3876.