

From Washington

FDA preparing canola ruling

In late February, U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials expected a regulation allowing the use of low erucic acid rapeseed oil as a food ingredient would be approved within several weeks. The regulation, resulting from a petition filed by the Research Branch of Agriculture Canada in 1982, was to grant generally recognized as safe (GRAS) status to the oil.

Fish oil petition prepared for FDA

A fish-oil petition being prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce in conjunction with the fish industry is expected to be submitted by early next year to the Food and Drug Administration to authorize fish oil use in human food, National Marine Fisheries Service's James Brooker said Jan. 19 at a meeting of the federal advisory committee on meat and poultry inspection. Brooker said he anticipated its major use would be in margarine. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Jan. 23, 1984, p. 2.

Official standards proposed for sunflower

USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service has proposed official U.S. standards for sunflower seed to be adopted to facilitate inspection, weighing and marketing of the oilseed. Under such standards, sunflower seed shipped outside the U.S. would have to be officially inspected and weighed, with certain exceptions as provided under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Official inspection and weighing would also be available upon request for domestic shipments. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 28, 1984, pp. 3485-3488.

U.S. peanut price support set at \$550 per ton

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has set price support for 1984 quota peanuts at \$550 per short ton, the same level as 1983, with support for additional peanuts set at \$185 per short ton. Additional loan collateral peanuts from the 1984 crop will be sold by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation for export edible use at no less than \$425 per ton. The Commodity Credit Corporation has projected peanut oil and meal prices to average 37 cents a pound and \$190 per ton, respectively, for the 1984/85 marketing year and expects 194,000 to 274,000 tons of peanuts will be available for crushing in 1984/85, compared with 170,000 tons for 1982 and 1983. Foreseeing strengthening foreign demand for peanuts, the agency said the U.S. may export as many as 422,000 short tons in the 1984/85 marketing year, 25 percent above the 338,000 tons estimated for 1983/84. Details: *Federal Register*, Thursday, Jan. 12, 1984, pp. 1543-1545.

USDA shifts nutrition information unit

USDA's Food and Nutrition Information Center has become part of the National Agricultural Library. The center provides lending and reference services on food and nutrition subjects to federal and state agencies, Congress, libraries, schools, research institutions, professional societies and university faculty members. The address is FNIC, NAL/USDA, Beltsville, MD 20705, telephone 301-344-3719. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Jan. 30, 1984, p. 27.

EDB controversy sparks new rules

Growing concern by a number of states over residues of the pesticide, ethylene dibromide (EDB), in food products prompted EPA in February to set advisory maximum levels of 900 parts per billion (ppb) in raw grain; 150 ppb in intermediate products, such as flours, cake mixes, soft cereals and other products requiring cooking before consumption; and 30 ppb in ready-to-eat products, such as cold cereals, snack foods, breads and other baked goods. EPA also issued

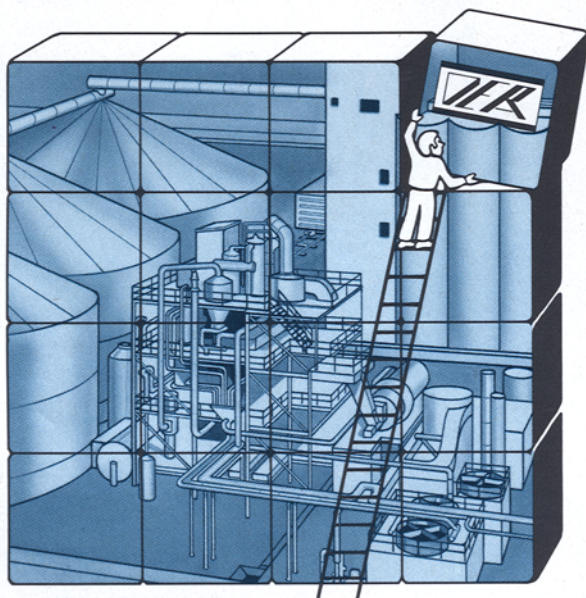
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an emergency suspension of fumigation uses of EDB on stored grain and grain-milling machinery. Meanwhile, the Canadian Department of Agriculture notified manufacturers it was suspending the use of five fumigants, including EDB. Last September, EPA took emergency action to suspend use of EDB as a soil fumigant after evidence showed it seriously contaminates water supplies, fruits and vegetables, and is highly carcinogenic to humans. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Jan. 9, 1984, pp. 2, 43-47; Jan. 16, 1984, pp. 42-44; Jan. 23, 1984, pp. 47-50; Jan. 30, 1984, pp. 51-58; Feb. 6, 1984, pp. 2, 54-58. *Chemical Marketing Reporter*, Jan. 30, 1984, pp. 7, 39; Feb. 6, 1984, pp. 3, 26.

White mineral oil supported as dust suppressant

Meat industry consultant Werner R. Boehme has told FDA he supports the clearance of white mineral oil as a dust suppressant for commodity grains. However, Boehme said vegetable- and animal-derived oils should not be used for that purpose because they are subject to oxidation and rancidification. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Jan. 31, 1984, p. 49. Use of mineral oil is opposed by others who note it is not an edible commodity. Groups such as the American Soybean Association are sponsoring research on using vegetable oil as a dust suppressant.

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