

Meetings

major animal and vegetable fats and oils and how those properties may affect processing choices. Registrants will be briefed in world supply and demand balances and trends, trading practices, and the economic and political factors affecting the industry.

For more information on upcoming world conferences, contact Joan Dixon, Meetings Manager, AOCS, PO Box 3489, Champaign, IL 61821-0489, USA.

Food seminar

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and the American Medical Association will hold a joint seminar, "Concerns About the Food Supply in the 21st Century: Technology Transfer as It Affects Food

and Health," March 3-4, 1988, at the Crystal Marriott, Crystal City (Arlington area), Virginia.

Topics planned include analysis of specific technologies such as irradiation, expanded usage of food fortification and supplementation, microbiological hazards, genetic engineering and omega-3 fatty acids.

For more information, contact IFT, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601, USA.

Lipid symposium

The 2nd International Symposium on Lipid Metabolism in the Normoxic and Ischemic Heart is scheduled for Sept. 12-13, 1988, at the University of Limburg, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

The objective is to provide biochemists, physiologists, pharmacologists and clinicians with a review of recent advances in myocardial lipid metabolism in health and disease and the opportunity to present their own results during poster sessions. Lectures will be provided by invited speakers.

The preliminary program includes four sessions: transport of lipids in the heart; phosphoglyceride homeostasis and cardiac function; myocardial lipids during ischemia and reperfusion; and imaging of lipid metabolism during ischemia—basic aspects and clinical application.

For more information, contact Ger J. van der Vusse, Department of Physiology, University of Limburg, PO Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands.

From Washington

FDA proposal on health claims

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed new regulations that would allow manufacturers to make health-related claims on food product labels provided those claims are based on "valid, reliable, scientific evidence that is publically available."

Under the proposed rules, health-related claims would have to be truthful and not misleading; they also could not imply that particular foods be used in a therapeutic way. Claims must not be made unless they "reflect the weight of scientific evidence," FDA said, adding that it "would not be appropriate to use the results of a single study to support a label claim if it conflicts with the majority of available pertinent evidence." Also, nutrition labeling would be required whenever health-related information appeared on a label because that material would constitute a nutritional claim.

The agency plans to establish a committee to write sample health messages that could be used on food labels. Those messages would stress the advantages of following certain dietary patterns and would avoid referring to specific brands of products. The group also will consider whether labeling is appropriate for dietary supplements. Committee members will represent FDA, other Public Health Service agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Federal Trade Commission.

Consumer groups have voiced concern that the proposed rules are not strict enough. Some groups

want both health risks and health benefits included on labels and in advertising. "This is an open invitation to mislead the consumer. The companies get the best of all worlds. They can accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative," Sidney Wolfe, director of Public Citizen Health Research Group, said.

FDA will accept comments until Nov. 2, 1987. They may be submitted to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, Rm. 4-62, 5600 Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD 20857. Details: *Federal Register*, Aug. 4, 1987, pp. 28843-28849.

In other activity, FDA has amended labeling regulations to exclude nondigestible dietary fiber when measuring the caloric content of foods. Details: *Federal Register*, Aug. 3, 1987, pp. 28690-28691.

FGIS report on soybean quality

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 1986 Soybean Quality Report indicates that export shipments of U.S. soybeans met or exceeded grade requirements set down by importers.

According to Gwen Dukes, a program analyst for the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), 86.9% of the soybeans inspected for export in 1986 were No. grade or better, while 10.1% were No. 3 grade. This compares with 87% and 12%, respectively, in 1985. Average moisture content dropped to 12.9% from 13.0% in 1985.

On the negative side, the damaged kernel total increased from 1.5% in 1985 to 2% in 1986. Jones said

From Washington

approximately 789.7 million bushels for export were inspected.

The 1986 report also includes quality data on domestic new-crop soybeans. Data showed that about two-thirds of the inspected lots scheduled for domestic shipment met the requirements for No. 1 or No. 2 grade.

Copies of the report are available from FGIS. Contact Allen A. Atwood, Room 1642-S, Federal Grain Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Soybean support slated at \$4.77

The preliminary government price support level announced for 1987 soybeans is \$4.77 a bushel, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng told U.S. soybean farmers in August.

That figure is 5% below the basic rate of \$5.02 a bushel set by the 1985 farm law, which authorizes the secretary to make such a cut to keep U.S. soybeans competitive in world markets.

Under the law, a final price-support level must be announced no later than Oct. 1 and can be no lower than the figure in the preliminary announcement.

The announcement drew criticism from the American Soybean Association (ASA), which had lobbied for a marketing loan that would have allowed farmers to repay loans at the lesser of either the loan level of \$5.02 or the prevailing world market price.

Report available on trade issues

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has published a report called *National Policies and Agricultural Trade*, which focuses on international trade practices and national supports for agricultural production.

Policies of Australia, Austria, Canada, the European Economic Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States are included. For a copy, contact OECD Publications and Information Centre, 2001 L St, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036.

FDA to close four offices

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will close its regional offices in Boston, Denver, Kansas City and Seattle by August 1988. FDA offices in New York City (Northeast region), Philadelphia (Mid-Atlantic), Atlanta (Southeast), Chicago (Midwest), Dallas (Southwest) and San Francisco (Pacific) will remain open.

USDA schedules Outlook '88

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold Outlook '88, its 64th annual agricultural outlook conference, Dec. 1-3, 1987, in Washington, DC.

Outlook '88 will include government and industry analyses of commodity prospects, along with talks on international trade challenges and negotiations. The oilseeds session tentatively is scheduled for Dec. 2. A book reproducing the charts shown by Outlook '88 speakers will be offered for sale following the conference. Proceedings of the conference will be published early in 1988.

For registration information, telephone 202-447-3050 or write Outlook '88, Rm. 5143 South Bldg., USDA, Washington, DC 20250-3800.

Ban imports of cottonseed?

U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is considering prohibiting all imports of cottonseed from other

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countries, regardless of intended use, according to the National Cottonseed Products Association (NCPA) Aug. 19, 1987, newsletter.

In a letter to NCPA, William F. Helms, deputy administrator for plant production and quarantine, noted that such a ban was being considered due to diseases in cottonseed in other countries. "We believe that all cottonseed importations must be prohibited because of the risks presented by these exotic diseases to the production of U.S. cotton and cottonseed,"

Helms wrote. For more information, contact the NCPA office, P.O. Box 12023, Memphis, TN 38112, USA.

Meanwhile, scientists at USDA's Southern Regional Research Center (SRRC) are collecting samples of U.S. cottonseed meal to develop a rapid, economical analytical method using near infrared technology to determine protein, fat, moisture and other components of meal. All oil mills handling cottonseed have been asked to send half-pound samples of new crop meal to SRRC's laboratory.

Inside AOCS

Turning ideas into meeting sessions

Is there a topic you would like to hear discussed during technical sessions at future AOCS annual meetings?

Here are a few guidelines on how to turn that idea into a technical session:

- 1) Check with the AOCS National Program Planning Committee or the technical program chairman for the appropriate meeting to obtain approval to organize a session.
- 2) If your idea is accepted, begin recruiting speakers. Explain your idea and the topic you'd expect each speaker to address. Let speakers know when and where the meeting is to be held and that they are

expected to pay their own expenses. Do not promise any financial aid or waiver of registration fees. The meeting's general chairman and technical program chairman are the only persons authorized to waive registration fees or to promise any financial aid.

- 3) As soon as possible, send a list of topics and speakers, with full mailing addresses, to the technical program chairman and the AOCS meetings manager.
- 4) Make sure all your speakers submit abstracts before the deadline. Usually the deadline for submitting abstracts for an AOCS annual meeting is Nov. 1 of the

previous year. If an abstract is not submitted, a paper cannot be approved for presentation. Make sure all your speakers understand that they must fill out a meeting registration form and mail it to AOCS. If speakers don't, they will not have a name badge and their names will not appear on the registration list.

5) Sometime before the meeting, obtain biographical information from your speakers to use in introducing them; arrange some way for them to notify you if they will be unable to participate.

6) At the meeting, you'll be asked to attend an orientation briefing for session chairmen. This is your chance to ask questions and to find out about any last-minute changes in arrangements. You may also be given some announcements to read at your session.

If you're not sure who the technical program chairman is for the next meeting or who is chairman of the National Program Planning Committee, call or write the AOCS Meeting Manager's office at AOCS headquarters. Someone there can provide the information.

NORCAL meeting

Featured speaker at the NORCAL meeting held in late August was Gary Nelson (seated at bottom right in photo) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Western Regional Human Nutrition Research Center in San Francisco. Nelson spoke on the possible role and significance of omega-3 fatty acids in human nutrition and health.

Lunch appropriately featured chilled poached salmon. The meeting, held at the Clarion Hotel in Napa Valley, was preceded by a tasting of several of Napa's fine white wines. Following lunch, participants toured the Trefethen vineyards and winery.

Shown with Nelson are his wife (seated at left), section president Penny Wells (standing at left) and section treasurer Bob Faulkner.



Section creates student award

The Northeast Section of AOCS has created the Hans Kaunitz Student Award to encourage studies relating to fats and oils and detergents technology.