

Fats and oils chronology

The original article providing the basis for this chronology was prepared by AOCS member Eugene W. Blank for publication in the June 1942 issue of Oil & Soap. In 1984, in observance of the society's 75th anniversary, that chronology was updated and published in the program for the 1984 AOCS annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; it is this updated version that appears in this issue.

Introduction

Chronologies are of great value in presenting a unified and comprehensive survey of the historic aspects of a subject. Likening them to a river that is continually changing its rate of flow and direction, one can visualize the effect and countereffect of events upon each other and the impetus or impedance

that particular events have given to the progress and direction of the field as a whole.

The following tabulation briefly presents some of the more significant dates in the history of the fats and waxes. Both the scientific and industrial aspects of the subjects are presented.

In general, emphasis has been

placed on fats and waxes, but some references to related field have been included for orientation purposes. It particularly is interesting to compare this chronology with a historical chronology of domestic and world affairs. By such comparison, one can note the effect of wars, treaties, trade pacts, embargoes, periods of depression and prosperity, upon the progress made in this field. By necessity, some of the dates are only approximate. This chronology stops with the year 1964, because recent events are too close to have assumed historical perspective.

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