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## Fats &amp; Oils News

## Italian firm to buy Central Soya

Shamrock Capital L.P., a limited partnership led by Shamrock Holdings Inc., announced it has signed an agreement to sell Central Soya Co. Inc. to Ferruzzi Agricola Finanziario, the holding company of the Ferruzzi Group based in Ravenna, Italy.

Under the agreement, which is subject to regulatory approval, Ferruzzi will acquire all the equity in Central Soya and assume subordinated term debt of \$195 million in a transaction valued at approximately \$170 million. The transaction, if completed by mid-October as expected, will represent the largest acquisition of a U.S. company by an Italian company.

Shamrock Capital L.P. acquired Central Soya in a leveraged buy-out in July 1985. Central Soya, with annual net sales of approximately \$1.5 billion, is one of the leading U.S. processors of soybeans and related products; it operates 65 plants and facilities in seven countries.

According to Stanley P. Gold, Shamrock president and Central Soya chairman, Central Soya will continue to operate as an autonomous business from its Fort Wayne, Indiana, headquarters under its existing management team headed by David H. Swanson, president and chief executive.

Founded in 1933, Ferruzzi is one of Europe's largest soybean, corn and sugar processors. It also is a major commodity trading company and owns approximately 40% of Montedison, the giant Italian chemicals conglomerate. Recently, Ferruzzi also acquired CICA, the

largest fruit and vegetable processor in Brazil and has signed an agreement with CPC International to buy CPC's European corn wet milling businesses. Included in that transaction are 13 manufacturing facilities, a headquarters, office in Brussels and a research and development facility.

## ARS Scientist of the Year

AOCS member Richard F. Wilson has been designated "Distinguished Scientist of the Year" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

Wilson is being honored for "pioneering research on the biological regulation of lipid synthesis to improve the oil quality of soybean and for development of outstanding young scientists." Wilson, a member of AOCS since 1973, has been with ARS at North Carolina State University's Department of Crop Science since 1976. His research there has focused on developing biological systems for improving the quality and use of soybean oil through eliminating linolenic acid content.

ARS normally cites one "Distinguished Scientist" and three "Outstanding Scientists" each year after nominating one scientist from each regional area. This year, however, it selected Wilson and Thomas J. Sexton to each have that title. Sexton, an avian physiologist assigned to USDA's ARS facility at

Beltsville, Maryland, was selected for his research in turkey breeding. Wilson and Sexton, as well as two "Outstanding Scientists" and seven other area scientists were to be recognized in ceremonies Nov. 3, 1987, in Washington, D.C. Wilson and Sexton each will receive a \$5,000 personal award and \$40,000 in equipment and research funds.

Wilson earned his masters and doctoral degrees in agronomy from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He has served as poster session chairman at AOCS World Conferences in 1985 in Cannes, France, and 1987 in Hamburg, West Germany.

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## P&G's Meyer retires

Walt Meyer, associate director of food product development for Procter & Gamble Co., retired the end of September after nearly 40 years with the company.

Meyer, whose responsibilities included regulatory, professional and safety concerns, will continue to do consulting work for P&G. However, retirement will mean