

From Washington

President halts trade review

U.S. President Ronald Reagan temporarily suspended a trade investigation of Argentina's differential export taxes on soybeans and soybean products after Argentina said it would eliminate these taxes by the end of 1987.

A presidential document published in the *Federal Register* May 18, 1987 (p. 18685), declared it was appropriate to suspend the investigation being conducted under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 because Argentina had said it would end these taxes within 180 days.

The U.S. Trade Representative initiated the investigation in April 1986 in response to a petition filed by the National Soybean Processors Association (NSPA). NSPA had alleged that Argentina's differential export tax system had increased Argentine soybean meal and oil exports and hurt U.S. exports of these products. Argentine's differential export taxes have imposed a 15% export tax on soybeans and only a 3% tax on soybean oil and meal.

In other agricultural trade matters, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and Foreign Agricultural Service published a *Federal Register* notice concerning the U.S. Targeted Export Assistance (TEA) program for fiscal 1988.

Under the food Security Act of 1985, provisions allow funds for

commodities owned by the CCC to be used to counter or offset adverse effects on U.S. exports due to a subsidy, import quota or other unfair trade practice of another country. For each of the 1986, 1987 and 1988 fiscal years, the minimum amount of funds or commodity value provided was \$110 million; this was then to increase to \$325 million each for fiscal years 1989 and 1990. However, a proposal has been submitted to U.S. Congress to reduce the 1988, 1989 and 1990 provisions by \$30 million each. Soybean meal is one of the commodities meeting the conditions for priority assistance for fiscal 1988. Details: *Federal Register*, June 3, 1987, pp. 20764-20865.

Canada adopts canola name

"Canola oil" is officially the name for low erucic acid rapeseed (LEAR) oil in Canada, and the "Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed Oil" designation has been deleted from Canadian regulations, A. O. Olson, assistant deputy minister of research for Agriculture Canada, has informed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Earlier this year, amendments to the Canadian Seeds Regulations to officially recognize canola as a generic seed were issued in the *Canada Gazette*. As a result, canola will now replace rapeseed as the common term of commerce in Canada.

According to the *Canada Gazette*, the rationale for the change was to assist in international marketing of canola in those countries currently refusing to accept the name unless it is identifiable as a registered seed.

Agriculture Canada has petitioned FDA to consider the use of the term "canola oil" as an alternate to LEAR oil. In Canada, the permissible level of erucic acid in canola oil has been reduced from 5% to a maximum of 2%, which conforms with FDA's Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) regulations for LEAR oil.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Grain Commission has proposed a complete schedule of canola grades to go into effect Aug. 1, 1987, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA said the new grades will be applied to all deliveries and shipments of canola that were formerly graded under the rapeseed schedules.

Cholesterol, fat issues

The National Institutes of Health have granted Phillip Greenland, a professor at the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, \$1 million to conduct a study on dietary cholesterol in low income neighborhoods in several U.S. cities.

According to an article in the *New York Journal of Commerce*, the testing may be done in supermarkets. The aim of the study is to determine whether people tested who have high blood cholesterol will be able to take the steps necessary to effectively lower their blood cholesterol by either dietary changes or medical treatment.

Meanwhile, the Cholesterol Adult Treatment Panel draft report reviewed at the June coordinating committee meeting of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's National Cholesterol Education Program concluded that low density lipoprotein (LDL) is highly correlated to total cholesterol and should be the key in determining treatment needs. The final report is due in October.

In Japan, researchers from Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute in Nagoya said an increase in consumption of western-style fat-rich foods, such as butter, margarine, cheese, bread, ham and sausage, might be associated with the recent increase of age-adjusted death rates for breast and ovarian cancers in that country. Details: *Food Chemical News*, June 8, 1987, p. 14.

In other fats and oils-related news, the American Soybean Association (ASA) has amended its petition to the U.S. Food and Drug

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Canola logo



The Canola Council of Canada is promoting a new identification mark for canola—modelled after the four-petaled canola flower. The council said it intends to encourage the use of the logo on food labels to help consumers recognize canola-based products.

From Washington

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Administration concerning the labeling of tropical fats. ASA has deleted its original 25% saturated fat threshold for "tropical oil" classification and requested instead that the term "vegetable oil" not be used for any tropical oil.

ASA said its amendment was prompted by industry concern that consumers would be confused by a saturated fats percentage requirement for determining whether palm, palm kernel and coconut oil could be classified as vegetable oils. Details: *Food Chemical News*, June 8, 1987, p. 12. Meanwhile, the Malaysian government has established a Palm Oil Promotion Association to counter what it perceives as an "anti-tropical-oil" campaign by ASA.

Fast food labeling

U.S. Senator John H. Chaffee of Rhode Island in June reintroduced legislation that would require ingredient labeling of fast foods.

Under the proposed bill, restaurants with at least 10 outlets serving packaged foods would be required to include an ingredient statement on the wrapper of each item. In cases where printing information on a label would be impractical, the restaurant would be allowed to provide the information in some other way, such as posting it on a wall chart or printing it in a brochure.

Chaffee and other sponsors said the proposed legislation has the backing of the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, National PTA, Consumer Federation of America, American

College of Allergists, Center for Science in the Public Interest, National Heartsavers Association and the Public Voice for Food and Health Policy. Details: *Food Chemical News*, June 8, 1987, p. 60; *Food Institute Report*, June 6, 1987, p.12.

Meanwhile, the National Fish Meal and Oil Association has told the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) affirmation for menhaden oil and partially hydrogenated menhaden oil would be unlikely to cause overfishing in the industry, as suggested by agency review of the GRAS petition.

In a detailed response to FDA's Nov. 12, 1986, request for further supporting information, Science and Technology Director Roy E. Martin said stock accessibility and the market for fish meal are self-limiting factors controlling menhaden harvest. Menhaden oil, he noted, is a byproduct of the fish meal industry. Also, he pointed out, menhaden oil prices are more closely related to prices of competing oils than to menhaden landings. Details: *Food Chemical News*, June 8, 1987, pp. 34-36.

FDA finalizes Yellow 6 action

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June finalized the permanent listing of FD&C Yellow 6 for use in foods, drugs and cosmetics. In its action, FDA postponed until Jan. 1, 1989, requirements for label declarations of the color additive. It originally had set Nov. 19, 1987, as the deadline.

The agency also agreed to revise

the description of how the color additive is manufactured. Except for these two changes, the color additive order for Yellow 6 was confirmed as effective Dec. 22, 1986, with the provisional listing expiring June 5, 1987. Details: *Federal Register*, June 8, 1987, pp. 21505-21509.

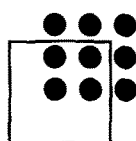
Also, FDA has completed evaluating objections received to the permanent listings of D&C Reds 8 and 9 as color additives in ingested drugs and cosmetic lip products and externally applied drugs and cosmetics. The only change made by the agency was in the manufacturing process for Red 9 described in the orders. Details: *Federal Register*, June 5, 1987, pp. 21302-21306.

Toxicology reports

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) has prepared a report on toxicology and carcinogenesis studies of ethyl acrylate, a monomer used to produce polymers and copolymers for use in latex paints, textiles, paper coatings, fabric finishes, dirt release agents and specialty plastics. Details: *Federal Register*, June 8, 1987, p. 21628.

Also, NTP has a report on toxicology and carcinogenesis studies of pentachloronitrobenzene, a fungicide used as a soil fumigant for crops such as cotton, peanuts, barley, corn, oats, peas, wheat and rice. Details: *Federal Register*, June 10, 1987, p. 22002.

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