

## FROM WASHINGTON

### FDA seeks data on menhaden oil

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has asked the National Fish Meal and Oil Association (NFMOA) for more data concerning antioxidant requirements and shelf-life of menhaden oil to support NFMOA's petition that menhaden oil be granted affirmation as Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS).

In a letter to NFMOA, FDA has requested additional information about NFMOA antioxidant formulations. FDA said it wants the identities of antioxidants used, the levels of use and the projected menhaden oil market share for each formulation. FDA is also seeking data to support NFMOA's claim that products containing menhaden oil have an extended shelf-life because of the antioxidants used. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Dec. 19, 1988, p. 30.

In other food matters, Grinsted Products Inc. has asked FDA for affirmation as GRAS for sorbitan tristearate for use as a crystal stabilizer in nonstandardized chocolate coatings and in confections and frostings. Details: *Federal Register*, Dec. 8, 1988, p. 49680.

### USDA allocates TEA funds

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has allotted the \$90 million balance of unallocated 1989 Targeted Export Assistance funds to 38 projects. Groups included are the American Soybean Association (ASA), the National Peanut Council (NPC) and the National Sunflower Association (NSA), which will receive \$2.65 million, \$3.4 million and \$100,000, respectively.

These funds are in addition to funding assigned in August. At that time, ASA was granted \$8.8 million, NPC was given \$4 million and NSA received \$2.3 million.

### Trade commission seeks advice

The International Trade Commission (ITC) will hold public hearings in February, March and April to seek the public's advice on issues facing U.S. negotiators at the Uruguay Round of trade talks. The commission particularly wants to assess the effects of possible U.S. tariff and non-tariff concessions on the U.S. economy.

Meetings were tentatively scheduled for New Orleans, Feb. 1; Miami, Feb. 3; Atlanta, Feb. 6; Los Angeles, Feb. 13; San Francisco, Feb. 15; Portland, Oregon, Feb. 17; Denver, Feb. 24; Chicago, Feb. 27; Minneapolis, March 1; Kansas City, Missouri, March

2; New York, March 13; Boston, March 15; Pittsburgh, March 17; and Washington, DC, April 3-4. Contact: Jim Craig, ITC Office of Public Affairs, telephone 202-252-1819.

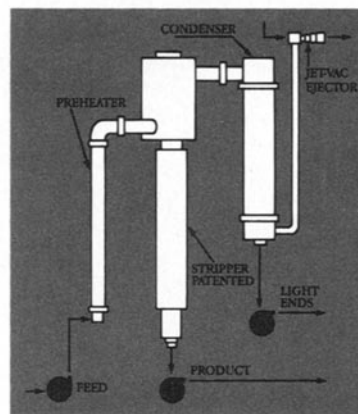
### USDA establishes export office

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Trade Assistance and Planning Office to help U.S. exporters of agricultural products. The new office, part of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, will keep exporters informed about foreign export trade barriers, unfair trade practices and remedies for persons injured by unfair trade practices.

The Trade Assistance and Planning Office will also coordinate production of the Long-Term Agricultural Trade Strategy Report for Congress. The report will cover trade goals and recommended policies, programs and spending levels for trade, USDA said.

In other action, USDA has released "Marketing U.S. Agriculture," its 1988 yearbook.

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