

# Cereal Chemistry

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## SYMPOSIUM CEREAL LIPIDS: WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

### Introduction

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In recent years, studies of cereal lipids have increased. These have included quantitation and characterization of lipid components in cereal grains and parts of grains, mostly endosperm fractions; physiologic function of lipids at different stages of grain development (maturation), germination, and malting; and the role of cereal lipids in functional end use. Consequently, we know quite a lot about cereal lipids, and the question therefore arises: "Why the symposium and why this overview?"

Most scientists went their own ways in conducting studies in line with their interests, and many of the studies were somewhat limited in scope and primarily of academic interest. Relatively little effort has been made to bring forth, interpret, and integrate the many facets of knowledge in a meaningful entity. I believe that great benefit can be derived from bringing scientists together and accumulating information on the broad area of cereal lipids. As usual, the value of such a symposium can be measured better by the probing questions that it provokes than by the questions that it answers. The six articles that follow discuss some of the areas in question and open the doors toward new lines of thought.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the participants at the symposium and to the authors who contributed manuscripts. I wish to thank Lawrence F. Marnett of C. J. Patterson Company, program chairman of the 61st AACC Annual Meeting, for giving me the opportunity to preside at the symposium in New Orleans and the staff at the national office for editorial assistance. My special thanks go to Dr. Y. Pomeranz of the U.S. Grain Marketing Research Laboratory for his encouragement and constructive suggestions for the symposium and publication of the material.

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