FOREWORD

For over fifty years, the Corn Refiners Association has developed and compiled analytical methods for consideration and potential use by the corn refining industry, its customers and others interested in refined corn products. The Association's major methods, *CRA Analytical Methods*, provide referee procedures for determining the attributes of all major products produced by the industry.

Beyond the direct analysis of the finished products of corn wet milling, a need exists for other methodology in the corn refining industry. Methods are desirable for analyzing process streams for manufacturing and quality control purposes, and for analyzing major raw materials used by the corn refining industry. The Association's Technical Affairs Committee has developed procedures for consideration and potential use by the industry in these areas.

The requirements for analysis of food products for microbial content have widened considerably. Because of this increased emphasis in the food industry on microbial content of foods, the Association compiled the microbiological methods. Because microbiological analysis relies on highly specialized procedures, the Association decided to produce this collection separate from the *CRA Analytical Methods*. However, one may view these methods as procedures for referee purposes at such times as it may become necessary or useful. Likewise, these procedures in no way bind the internal practices of any member company or its relations with any outside entity.

The Association makes no claim as to the completeness of this work, and hopes it will expand both in scope and detail as the industry grows and changes. As additional methods are developed, they will also be available on the CRA website.

Members of the Subcommittee on Microbiological Methods of the Association's Technical Affairs Committee, with the support of their member company technical and managerial staffs, undertake the work of collecting, revising, developing, and testing these methods. The Corn Refiners Association expresses its deep appreciation for their help in this endeavor.

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