

FeedAC Accomplishments in 2009

The Board of Directors has initiated significant changes in 2009 to transform FeedAC's structure and operations to better focus efforts of the organization on the primary goal of developing a database of feed analysis information and retaining diverse feed samples with unique characteristics. The Board has developed a comprehensive plan to make significant progress by the 2010 annual meeting. This plan will require financial support to fill two new contracts-for-services to complete the necessary work, which cannot be done by volunteers. The changes and plans proposed by the Board include the following:

- Organizational
 - In March 2009, the Board established several executive committees that were given the responsibilities of managing specific operations and providing recommendations to the Board.
 - Members of the Board are volunteers, and it is imperative that their time be used effectively and efficiently to carry out the vision and mission of the organization.
 - Each Board member is chair of one executive committee and member of two others, which allows delegation of responsibilities and adequate interaction among committees.
 - The committee assignments and contact information for Board members are provided in Appendix D.
 - In October 2009, the Board approved a plan to transform FeedAC into a more focused organization, which included the development of a new logo, vision, mission, technical goals, and communications goals.
 - This transformation is intended to sharply focus the organization on the primary objective of acquiring appropriate samples, developing a database of feed information, collecting the analytical information needed, and retaining samples for future use.
 - The bylaws of the organization will need to be revised to match the transformation. It was suggested that the name of the organization be changed to Feed Information and Sample System (FISS) to more accurately reflect the goals of the organization. The Board would like your input about the name change when you respond with your sponsorship/membership. (See Appendix E for proposed transformation.)
 - In 2010, the Board proposes to fill two new contracts to provide the technical support necessary to meet the objectives of the new organization (in addition to the one in place). The only valid way for the organization to succeed is to contract for these services.
 - Sapienza Analytica LLC currently provides services for sample collection, storage, and distribution—contract approved until December 2010. (Will report to the Sample Acquisition Executive Committee)
 - Database manager services are needed to develop the database, establish protocols for database management, and manage the information in the database. FASS will supply software-development services for the database programming. (Will report to the Database Management Executive Committee)
 - Chuck Schwab has indicated his desired to retire as executive director, and administrative services will be needed to fulfill day-to-day management of operations in accordance with Board directives, coordinate Board and committee activities, manage the Web site, record operational and technical policies and procedures, and procure additional sources of funding. (Will report to the Operations Executive Committee)

Appendix A

- Requests for bids on the last two contracts will be advertised in November 2009, and selection of contractors will occur in December 2009, with a starting date of January 2010, only if the organization has funding for these contracts.
- Feed Sample Acquisition
 - In February 2009, the Sample Acquisition Executive Committee developed and the Board approved standard policies and procedures for collecting samples for the database.
 - In June 2009, the Board accepted the sampling plan and protocols from the Corn Commodity Expert Group for corn sample collection.
 - In July 2009, the chairs of the Sample Acquisition (Grant), Analytical Methodology (Sniffen), and Database Management (Mertens) Executive Committees developed a new paradigm for the collection of samples.
 - Initially, 60 to 70 diverse samples will be collected, and their similarity/diversity will be evaluated. Then, an additional 30 to 40 sample will be collected to fill holes in the diversity continuum for the commodity.
 - After ~100 diverse samples have been evaluated chemically and spectrally, 10 to 20 will be identified and retained for intensive analysis, and these samples will encompass the diversity in the parent data set.
 - At the July 2009 annual meeting, participants gave the directive that samples of corn, alfalfa, and soybean meals must be collected and data entered into a functioning database by the annual meeting in 2010.
 - In October 2009, it was decided to evaluate an alternative system for collection of corn samples proposed by Sapienza Analytica LLC based on a new NIR approach.
 - Collection of corn samples will begin December 2009, of alfalfa hay will begin January 2010, and of soybean meals will begin by February 2010. Collection of all samples of a commodity will be completed within three months.
 - Current inventory of samples
 - 69 – Fishmeal
 - 68 – Soybean meals
 - 48 – Distillers grains
 - 26 – Alfalfa hays
 - ~20 – Miscellaneous feeds
- Database Management
 - In January-February 2009, the preliminary procedures developed by Mertens were refined to use chemical and spectral information to measure the diversity in fishmeal and soybean meal and to identify samples for detailed analysis that encompass population diversity.
 - In April 2009, a timeline for developing the database structure with the programmer was established.
 - In May 2009, alternative methods of data import/export for the database were evaluated.
 - In July 2009, the chairs of the Sample Acquisition (Grant), Analytical Methodology (Sniffen), and Database Management (Mertens) Executive Committees developed a new paradigm for the structure and operation of the database.
 - It was decided to abandon a “Master” database structure that would include feed information from other sources and develop a database that would meet the unique objectives of FeedAC (although the FeedAC database could be a template for other feed information databases that would be managed separately).

Appendix A

- There will be no attempt to obtain consensus about analytical methodology for data included in the database. Instead, the database will be designed to contain results from alternative methods for an analyte, which will be recorded in separate fields with unique acronyms and be linked to a description of the method used in the database.
- In August 2009, sample tracking was added to the database to provide a system for managing the progress of sample collection and analysis.
- In October 2009, the development of search criteria for the database was developed as the first step for the FASS programmer to create the database.
- Analytical Methods
 - In April-June 2009, guidelines were developed for analytical methodology for the database.
 - In July 2009, the chairs of the Sample Acquisition (Grant), Analytical Methodology (Sniffen), and Database Management (Mertens) Executive Committees developed a new paradigm for including analytical methodology in the database and setting priorities for analytical information to be included in the database.
 - A core set of analyses and NIRS scans will be obtained on all collected samples and used to identify those samples for detailed analysis.
 - Detailed analysis will be done on the same 10 to 20 samples using whatever methods are available. These samples will be available to members for use in evaluation of new methods or validation of current in-house methods.
 - The database will be expandable to include multiple analytes as well as multiple alternative methods for each analyte.
 - In July 2009, it was confirmed that the current set of analyses used for assessing diversity and identifying samples for detailed analysis is acceptable.
 - In September 2009, a list of priorities for the detailed analyses of samples identified to encompass the diversity of the commodity population was developed.
 - Approximately \$25,000 of paid-by-services memberships of laboratories is available for initial and detailed analysis of collected samples.