

Proposed Changes to Transform FeedAC

Current Name:

Feed Analysis Consortium (FeedAC)

COMMENT: The current name of the organization stresses feed analysis when, in fact, it should be focused on a feed information database and the feed samples contained in the database.

New Name:

Feed Information and Sample System (FISS) – This name would imply that the organization is focusing on feed nutritional information and retaining diverse samples that can be used for future analyses.

Current Motto and Logo:

FeedAC “Dedicated to the advancement of feed analysis and nutritional modeling – Where feeds, feed analysis, ration formulation and animal production come together”

COMMENT: The current motto and logo make no mention of a database or sample collection, which are our two primary objectives, and instead they stress feed analysis, modeling, and ration formulation.

New Motto and Logo:

FISS “Providing complete and detailed nutritional information for feeds – Retaining a diverse sample collection for future methodology development”

Current Vision Statement:

It is the vision of the Feed Analysis Consortium that there is continued advancement, development, and standardization of feed analysis; that there is a comprehensive, evolving, and accessible database of feed analysis information for all who can benefit from its use; and that there is continued improvements in the development of quantitative animal nutritional models. These advances will allow for precise matching of nutrient supply with nutrient requirements, improved animal health and production, accurate prediction of animal responses to diet changes, maximum nutrient usage, and more environmentally sustainable feeding practices.

COMMENT: The vision of improving quantitative nutritional models and matching nutrient supply with requirements is not within the purview of a feed information database. Our vision should focus on our highest priorities, which are developing a unique feed information database and obtaining a diverse, unique, and representative sample collection.

New Vision Statement:

The FISS will be the preeminent source of accurate, unbiased feed information and will be the source of origin of nutritional information for the feed and seed industries, NRC publications, nutritional model feed libraries, and ration formulation software. Samples retained by the FISS will become recognized standards and references for the improvement of analytical quality assurance and the development of new methodologies that improve animal nutrition. Users of the FISS will be able to improve performance and health of production animals and enhance environmental quality by reducing nutrient excretion through the use of the complete nutritional information provided by the FISS.

Old Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Feed Analysis Consortium to serve the feed industry by building

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and maintaining a comprehensive and evolving database of feed analysis information, developing improved and more rapid methods of feed analysis, and encouraging the development of improved diet formulation and evaluation models.

COMMENT: Developing new and rapid methods of analysis and improving diet formulation models are not the mission of a feed information database but are the responsibilities of the users of the database.

New Mission Statement:

The mission of FISS is to identify and obtain samples of feeds that represent the diversity in each feed population for complete and detailed analysis of chemical, physical, and spectral properties and bioavailability characteristics. The FISS will create a comprehensive and evolving database of information in which all data will be linked to a uniformly formatted description of the procedure used to generate the results and each analyte will have a unique acronym that will serve to standardize analytical terminology. In addition to completeness, the FISS will strive to obtain replicated results for all analytes included in the database. The FISS will be open ended for the addition of new feeds and analytes and easily searchable for information within and among feeds, samples, and analytes, and results from searches will be easily exported in common and standard file formats. The FISS will retain unique, diverse samples of feeds and make them available for additional future analyses and for use as standards and references.

Old Technical Goals:

To best serve our members, we believe our technical goals should be precise and obtainable while at the same time being all encompassing and futuristic.

- 1. Establish reference methods for the analysis of all chemical components (including their digestibilities where relevant) and physical factors in feedstuffs that have relevant biological meaning.*
- 2. Obtain accurate and validated chemical, physical, and relevant digestibility data for all feedstuffs fed to animals in North America.*
- 3. Identify changes in feedstuff composition and characteristics as a result of genetics, processing methods, and the environment.*
- 4. Quantify relationships between the chemical composition of feeds and biologically derived estimates of digestion rates and intestinal digestibility coefficients.*
- 5. Evaluate and validate rapid methods of feed analysis (e.g., NIRS).*
- 6. Support the development and continued advancement of diet formulation and evaluation models for practical application in the field.*

COMMENT: These technical goals are so broad in scope that they provide no focus for the organization. Goal 2 is highly relevant. Goals 3 and 4 could be met by the organization after the database is developed, but they and all other objectives should be met by the users of a feed information database.

New Technical Goals for FISS:

- 1. Prioritize the order in which feeds should be added to a feed information and sample system.**
- 2. Develop a system to identify and obtain samples of feeds that encompass the diversity or represent unique sources of nutritional information within a feed type population.**
- 3. Obtain complete and detailed chemical, physical, spectral, and bioavailability information on the samples selected to represent a feed population with the stipulation that the method used to measure each analyte must be included in the database using a uniform format.**

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4. Develop a system by which samples can be retained, replicated analyses can be obtained, and samples can be used as standards and reference materials.
5. Create a relational, open-ended database that tracks samples and information, stores relevant data in an easily retrievable manner, and exports data in common or standard formats.
6. Establish a mechanism for editing data included in the database based on objective statistical criteria and for evaluating sources of variation in results that can be used to maintain accuracy and identify new analytes based on differences in analytical methodologies.

Old Communication Goals

To have effective, dynamic, and interactive communications among everyone involved in feed analysis, diet formulation, and suppliers of feed and feed additives.

Two current initiatives to enhance communication are

1. *Consortium Web site (www.feedac.org): The Web site serves as the focal point for day-to-day consortium communications. A forum has been established (restricted to consortium members) to facilitate interaction among members. In addition, separate restricted areas for each committee have been set up. A prototype online library of procedures has been constructed (primarily based on NFTA approved procedures). Revisions/modifications to approved consortium procedures will be tracked using an audit trail mechanism, allowing incoming data to be tagged by specific procedure used. Algorithms and interface screens for basic summary analysis of the data have been developed, with further work planned once data starts rolling into the system.*
2. *Annual Feed Analysis Conference: The conference is intended to promote face-to-face interaction among members, to share research results, and to provide a more formal venue to conduct business and report on consortium activities. It is expected that presentations at this conference will be made available via the Web site and that the Web site would be used to maintain continuity between scheduled conferences.*

COMMENT: As with the other FeedAC goals, these communication goals are too all encompassing to fit with the primary objective of FISS. Communication must be an intrinsic activity needed to accomplish technical goals. However, a properly functioning and current Web site is needed to meet the mission of the new organization.

New Communication Goals

1. Develop a mechanism to ensure that the feed information system Web site (www.feedac.org or new name) is actively maintained to be up-to-date and functions (in priority) to (a) be the access point for the feed information and sample system including database access and sample requests, (b) be the historical archive and current record-of-notice for organizational bylaws, vision, mission, and goals; Board-approved policies and procedures; requests for contract bids and descriptions of contracts awarded; meeting dates, agendas, and minutes; and any other official transactions of the organization or its Board, (c) host communication forums within and among Board Executive Committees, Commodity Groups, Analytical Expert Groups, and other ad hoc committees, and (d) provide links to related organizations and forums for general discussions about feed information among members.
2. Hold an annual meeting to discuss the business of FISS, present accomplishments and plans and priorities for the next year, and summarize the samples and information

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collected and analyzed during the past year. Members would present their review of progress and their comments about future priorities for samples and analytical information. This meeting may be held in conjunction with other organizations with similar interest in feed analysis and nutritional information.