

January 16, 2009

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December 2008 Monthly Update

- ❖ Happy New Year from FeedAC! It was an exciting December for us. The board is pleased to announce that they elected Dr. Daryl Kleinschmit of Agri-King to be FeedAC's President-elect. We are excited about the progress that FeedAC is making and looking forward to demonstrating the progress made on the feed data base during the meeting at ADSA/ASAS in Montreal in July.
- ❖ We are also pleased to see that another article about FeedAC has been published in popular press. If you didn't happen to catch the December 8th issue of Feedstuffs, the article is included below for you to peruse.

Issue Date: December 8, 2008 | Issue 50 | Volume 80

FeedAC begins streamlining data exchange

EXCHANGING data on the nutrient composition of feedstuffs will become more efficient in less than a year since the Feed Analysis Consortium's (FeedAC) new Feed Industry Data Exchange Standard (FIDES) focus group is in the process of streamlining electronic data handling among feed industry members.

As a first step, the FIDES focus group invited the full spectrum of the feed industry to provide input on what information they are most interested in having exchanged in a standard format. While this may initially be nutrient analysis data, the standards can extend beyond nutritional information to include data used by accounting, plant management, plant operations, shipping, legal and regulatory departments and others.

The driving force behind the upcoming standardization of electronic data exchange is livestock nutritionists. Standardization promises tremendous efficiencies for them. "Currently, a software program must support the data format used by each feed lab, or the feed lab must support the format for each supported software program. The user is left with the responsibility to learn the correct steps for transferring data between any particular laboratory and each specific software program," said Dr. Dewayne Dill, FIDES focus group co-chair and Dalex Livestock Solutions LLC president.

Dr. Thomas P. Tylutki, the other FIDES co-chair and president and chief executive officer of AMTS LLC, said, "Any given lab might have 8-10 different data formats for use in sending out results because everyone has

their own idea of how it should be done. It's confusing, impossible to manage and difficult to do things between labs because everyone is different."

FeedAC executive director Dr. Chuck Schwab explained that "The FIDES focus group is an exciting initiative for FeedAC. It is very complementary to the efforts of another focus group that is constructing the FeedAC feed analysis database. In that case, it is our goal to have all FeedAC members, regardless of the ration formulation models that they use, be able to move data from the FeedAC database to whatever software programs they are using as efficiently as possible."

The FIDES focus group co-chairs agreed that they want a practical, hands-on outcome quickly. As the standard's components are being defined now, they are urging interested members of the feed industry to contact them and to be candid about the features that the electronic data exchange should have in order to be an effective, efficient tool. More information is available at www.feedac.org.

- ❖ Note from the President: If you have not yet taken the opportunity to renew your membership in FeedAC, *please consider doing so now*. The Feedstuffs article illustrates the progress we are making. Your sponsorship will allow us to continue making progress on the feed data base and other high priority FeedAC initiatives. Look for an exciting FeedAC meeting at the ADSA/ASAS meetings this July in Montreal.
- ❖ As noted in the previous update, an invitation and questionnaire was sent out to member labs and companies asking for their involvement in a joint initiative between the USDA-ARS at University Park, PA, and FeedAC. If you did not receive an invitation and your lab and/or company would like to find out more information on how to participate, please be sure to contact Fred Lundy (fred.lundy@feedac.org, 315-663-5729) or Dr. Sasha Hafner (sasha.hafner@ars.usda.gov, 814-863-5991).
- ❖ If this is the first FeedAC update you have received, you can read our past updates by clicking here: <http://www.feedac.org/communications.asp?view=monthlyupdates>.

Feed Analysis Consortium, Inc.

Dedicated to the advancement of feed analysis and nutritional modeling. Where feeds, feed analysis, ration formulation and animal production come together...

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