

FeedAC 2010 Sponsorship/Membership Invitation

The Board of Directors invites you to renew or initiate your sponsorship/membership in FeedAC for 2010. We are encouraged by the significant changes in the operations of FeedAC made in 2009 and are enthused about the prospects for the coming year! The following changes were initiated by the Board of Directors to allow FeedAC business to be conducted in a more efficient manner. This will better focus the organization on the original goal of developing a unique feed database. (See Appendices A and B for accomplishments and milestones.)

A major accomplishment of FeedAC in 2009 was the formation of a new operational organization and policies (see Appendix C) with executive committees that have specific oversight responsibilities. Seven committees were formed, and each board member chairs one committee and participates in two others. These committees initiate policies, priorities, and actions for Board approval. This has dramatically improved the efficiency of conducting FeedAC business. (See Appendix D for committees, memberships, and contact information.)

Another significant initiative in 2009 was the transformation of the organization to better focus on its primary objective. The lack of progress toward a unique feed database over the past seven years can be attributed to a focus on analytical methodology and the pursuit of projects that did not directly result in the development of the database. The FeedAC Board of Directors has moved to transform the motto, vision statement, mission statement, technical goals, and communication goals of the organization to narrow its focus. The Board would like your input on whether the name of the organization should be changed to reflect this transformation. (See Appendix E for comparisons of the old and new organization.)

At the annual meeting in July 2009, FeedAC announced a monumental paradigm shift in its approach to developing the structure and function of the database. Previous database development involved a master database that would include data from other sources, such as NRC, CNCPS, or CPM-Dairy. However, the Board of Directors decided not to follow this direction because of difficulties in maintaining data from other sources and potential conflicts during database development. The Board of Directors also decided that obtaining consensus about approved methods for results in the database was limiting progress. The new database structure will include nutritive values from a variety of methods, but each result will have a unique field in the database that will be linked to a specific method. With this approach, the users of the database will decide what data is appropriate for their needs. The new database will have unique features and advantages. 1) It will include detailed analysis with a description of the procedure used for each analyte. 2) It will provide the ability to compare methods for an analyte. 3) Sample selection will encompass feed diversity and allow detection of differences among subgroups within a feed. 4) The same sample and procedures will be replicated among multiple laboratories. 5) Replicated data will allow the database to be edited and monitored using statistical criteria. 6) Sample retention will be documented by location, year, type, and method to give appropriate values to the user and potentially be used as check samples in commercial feed testing laboratories. (See Appendix F for unique features and advantages of the new database paradigm.)

Over the past year, FeedAC has established written protocols for collecting samples for the database. Commodity Expert Groups will be following these protocols to obtain samples of corn, soybean meal, and alfalfa hay during 2009–2010. Initially, 60 to 70 diverse samples will be collected and their diversity evaluated, followed by another round of sampling with an extra 30 to 40 samples collected to fill holes in the diversity continuum. Of the 100 diverse samples, 10 to 20 will be identified and retained for intensive analysis to cover the diversity of the feed population.

Currently, a memorandum of understanding for sample management and storage is in place with Sapienza Analytica, LLC. However FeedAC is at an important crossroads and needs funding to contract services for both a database manager and an executive administrator to begin in January 2010. The task of developing a database and providing administrative services cannot be realistically delegated to volunteers because of the time required. To meet the organization's goals, FeedAC will need \$200,000 in 2010 to pay for these contracts and the accompanying costs of database development, administrative services, and sample analysis and storage.

As you can see, FeedAC has narrowed its vision and is on track to present a functioning database at the 2010 annual meeting. However, this can only be accomplished with your continued support. We look forward to your sponsorship.