

## **FeedAC 2009 Sponsorship/Membership Invitation**

The Board of Directors invites you to renew or initiate your Sponsorship/Membership in FeedAC for 2009. We are encouraged by the progress made in 2008 and are enthused about the prospects for the coming year! Much has been accomplished, and we are committed to working aggressively to build on our progress and to maximize the use of sponsorship and membership dollars for feed analysis and database development.

First and foremost, we will be consolidating the positions of Acting Executive Director and Operations Manager into a 50%-time Executive Director position. This has been made possible by outsourcing of most of our activities to FASS and Sapienza Analytica, our contract laboratory for NIR spectroscopy, and expected further stream-lining of day-to-day activities. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Schwab, who has volunteered all of his time, and to Fred Lundy and Dr. Paul Kononoff who he hired on a full-time to help, to build FeedAC into the organization that is today.

We are pleased that Dr. Dave Mertens has agreed to chair a Statistical Analysis Group that will have the responsibility for developing statistical protocols for editing the chemical and spectral data of each feed type and for selecting subsets of samples that can reliably represent the diversity in the feed. A membership survey last year identified two key goals for FeedAC: (1) develop and maintain a comprehensive and evolving database of feed analysis information, and (2) improve methods of feed analysis. The approach for developing the database is to obtain about 100 diverse samples of each feed ingredient, scan them via NIR spectroscopy, and analyze them for a core set of chemical analyses. The resulting data will then be used to identify a subset of the samples (10 to 20) that captures the variability to be analyzed comprehensively for the database. To date, 70 samples of fishmeal, 62 samples of soy meal products, 26 samples of alfalfa hay, and 50 samples of distiller's grains have been obtained, analyzed, and scanned.

FeedAC has begun an initiative with Iowa State University's Grain Quality Laboratory, in partnership with Sapienza Analytica LLC, to identify 100 diverse samples of soy products, distillers' grains, and corn grain for core analyses. FeedAC's Alfalfa Hay Commodity Group is identifying the key regions for commercial hay production to insure adequate representation in the initial sample population of alfalfa hays, and samples from western U.S. have been collected. FeedAC is also working with California ARPAS to develop appropriate collaboration in their project to create a better model for nutritional evaluation of commercial alfalfa hay.

Great progress is being made on developing the first version of the database structure. With the help of Dr. Charlie Sniffen, Dr. Mike Van Amburgh and Kurt Cotanch this year, the feed library of the CNCPS model has been provided as the starting point for the FeedAC database, using programming support from FASS. Nutrient fractions have been expanded to include NRC inputs for swine, equine, poultry, small ruminants, beef, and dairy cattle. As new feed analysis data become available, they will be added to this template. The information gained from the FeedAC database will be an effective tool for livestock consultants, academia, and producers in all classes of animals. It also is our goal that the database, when complete enough, will be used as the "living tables of feed composition" for various NRC committees. Members can view the initial

template as presented at this year's members meeting in Indianapolis, IN at the FeedAC web site: [www.feedac.org](http://www.feedac.org).

We expect the various commodity and focus groups within FeedAC to become more active after we select the first feed samples for comprehensive analysis. The Nutrient Expert Groups will be asked to select the appropriate methods for the comprehensive chemical and biological analyses to be included in the database and to develop protocols for insuring that only accurate results are used. Additionally, Commodity Expert Groups will identify the next feeds for inclusion in the database. Both groups will provide inputs for describing the ingredient subcategories in the database.

In summary, we hope you feel as excited about the progress and plans for the coming year as we do! If you have been a sponsor, we sincerely thank you and hope that you will renew your sponsorship of FeedAC. If you have not previously been a member or sponsor of FeedAC, then we hope that you will consider sponsorship of FeedAC for 2009 at one of the levels described on the next page. FeedAC has reached a critical stage and is on the verge of making significant progress in the development of a national feed nutritional information database. We continue to work on streamlining the structure and operation of FeedAC, identifying the crucial activities needed for database development, and on refocusing efforts to target funds toward acquisition of the analytical information needed in the database.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact members of the Board of Directors. Your input and support are needed to ensure progress on the feed information database.

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Best regards,

*FeedAC, Inc.*

The FeedAC Board of Directors