

March 7, 2008

January/February 2008 End of Month Update

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- ❖ The Joint NIRSC, FeedAC, & NFTA Conference was held on February 13-15, 2008 in Indianapolis, IN. The conference consisted of a dozen invited speakers and had about 75 attendees. Each organization's board of directors met at different times throughout the conference with the FeedAC board meeting 3 different separate times for about 9 hours. Thank you to all speakers and attendees for making this inaugural event a success!
- ❖ Through the various "question and answer" sessions held at the conference, there were three key questions for FeedAC that arose.
 - A. What is the relationship between FeedAC and the other organizations?
 - B. Where is FeedAC in sample analysis and database creation?
 - C. What is the "road map" for FeedAC's immediate future?

Our answers to these questions follow...

- ★ A. Three points of agreement have been reached between FeedAC and NFTA.
 1. **FeedAC supports NFTA certification of feed and forage testing laboratories and believes that all laboratories should be certified for the analyses that they conduct.** This position has been taken to help bring greater standardization, uniformity and accuracy to feed analysis.
 2. **FeedAC will only use NFTA certified labs or labs using NFTA certified procedures, where those NFTA analyses apply, for their analytical needs.** This position was taken to ensure greater accuracy of results. It is also believed that with the two organizations working together, feed testing labs will have the opportunity to be certified for more analyses involving more feeds.
 3. **NFTA has committed to using FeedAC proposed methods of feed analysis and has requested that FeedAC recommend the need for other certified methods of analysis, both in forages and other feeds.** Given FeedAC's commitment to the advancement of feed analysis, and given that its membership has asked that FeedAC be the organization to standardize feed analysis methods, this was an acceptable and logical request.

A short press release is being jointly prepared for inclusion in agricultural trade publications.

- ✿ B. Sample Analysis Update (pre-screening/initial analysis data):
 - 215 feed samples collected
 - 5 feedstuffs
 - 3 different feed testing labs per feedstuff
 - 7 analytes per feedstuff
 - Single analysis per lab
 - NIR spectra collected on all samples across 3 platforms (over 1900 individual spectra)
 - White Paper on DDGS – particle size, grind size and possible group calibrations
 - Wet chemistry available on website to members

Feedstuff	#	Analyses (wet chem.)
Soy Products	62	DM, CP, NDF, ADF, FAT, ASH, NDICP**
Fishmeal*	69	DM, CP, NDF, ADF, FAT, ASH, NDICP**
DDGS	48	DM, CP, NDF, ADF, FAT, ASH, ADICP**
Alfalfa Hay	26	DM, CP, NDF, ADF, FAT, ASH, LIGNIN

*It might be questioned why fishmeal should be measured for NDF and ADF because it is not a plant-derived feed. However, fiber is a nutritional term that describes the indigestible or slowly digesting DM in feeds. Thus, all feeds can contain fiber, and the variation in NDF may identify unique samples. Also, measuring NDF allows for the calculation of NFC. It is expected that both NDF and NFC should be near zero, but if $100 - CP - EE - Ash$ is not zero, detergent analysis may be useful to define this residual DM.

**Although RUP content, pepsin solubility, buffer solubility and in situ degradation of protein may be more biologically appropriate to describe feeds, they are relatively expensive to obtain and vary substantially among laboratories. Thus, detergent insoluble CP may be a more routine and cost effective approach for screening samples for differences in protein characteristics.

- ✿ C. Road Map for the future: It is important for FeedAC to convey to the public (and its members) what the “road map” is for the future, particularly for the “intensive” or “complete” analysis phase. The Board discussed this topic at great length. As originally planned, the commodity expert groups will review the data and choose a subset of samples that represent the diversity in the population. The nutrient focus groups will identify those analyses/procedures that will be included in the intensive analysis phase. Once we know how many samples and what analyses, a cost estimate will be determined. Available funding will determine the speed with which feed analysis moves forward.
- ❖ We are pleased to announce that FeedAC has agreed to work with Hoards Dairyman to create a database of commercial testing lab analysis data for forages. It is envisioned that this would be a national initiative involving feed testing labs across the United States. A sub-committee has been formed to outline the structure of the database to best meet the needs of the readership, and determine how to streamline the data acquisition process.

- ❖ We are currently accepting nominations for the two director positions that will become available this summer. The board is considering the possibility of expanding the board from 7 members to 9 members. The board seeks members who wish to take an active leadership role in accomplishing the goals as established in the membership questionnaire conducted last fall. If you wish to nominate a colleague or yourself, please email Fred Lundy III (fred.lundy@feedac.org) with your nominations.
- ❖ We need all 2008 Sponsors who have not returned their membership lists to do so as soon as possible. This way we can update the members section of the website and grant website privileges to those necessary.
- ❖ If you or someone in your company would like to be nominated to serve on the FeedAC Board and you are not FeedAC members, you need to become a member. Only current 2008 members can be nominated to serve on the board of directors.
- ❖ For those members who had trouble viewing the “DDGS – White Paper” prepared by Sapienza Analytica, a new link in the “communications” section has been added. The section is called “Analysis Reports/White Papers” and a PDF file of the document can be accessed. The white paper offers 3 different options for how FeedAC can proceed with analyzing the different DDGS products. Please read and post your comments and/or recommendations in the “NIR” discussion group. We will evaluate all recommendations and make a decision on this matter by the end of March.
- ❖ FeedAC needs to greatly increase its number of sponsors and members. This is necessary for the consortium to meet its goals as described in the 2008 Scope of Work. Please see website for sponsorship/membership materials and the 2008 Scope of Work document.
- ❖ If this is the first FeedAC update you have received, you can read any of our past 2007 updates by clicking on: <http://www.feedac.org/communications.asp?view=monthlyupdates>.
- ❖ Thank you to all renewing and new 2008 Sponsors/Members; your support is appreciated!
- ❖ March 2008 Conferences:
 - ◆ March 26-27; Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference: <http://manc.umd.edu/>

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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