

**March 13, 2009**

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**January/February 2009 Monthly Update**

- ❖ We are commencing sample collection of feedstuffs. To ensure that the FeedAC database captures the variation in composition and nutritive value of each feed type as quickly as possible, and that the responsibilities of the Feed Commodity Expert Groups are clearly delineated, the Board of Directors have created an overall policy statement on sample acquisition by commodity expert groups. The document is available on the FeedAC homepage ([www.feedac.org](http://www.feedac.org)). Comments regarding the policy statement can be directed to the Acting Executive Director ([charles.schwab@unh.edu](mailto:charles.schwab@unh.edu)).
- ❖ In response to the overall policy statement on sample acquisition, the board has evaluated the way samples were collected in the past. To ensure greater heterogeneity in the initial samples that are collected, and to ultimately make sample collection as efficient as possible, the board proposes that the following approach be used: 1) the Feed Commodity Expert Group receives their charge from the Chair of the Feedstuffs Acquisition Committee, 2) the Feed Commodity Expert Group submits a Plan of Work and a Feed Identification and Information Worksheet to the Chair of the Feedstuffs Acquisition Committee (templates will be provided), and upon approval of these two documents by the Sample Acquisition Committee and the board, the 3) Feed Commodity Expert Group proceeds with sample collection.
- ❖ The board has decided that dry corn grain will be the next feedstuff that will be collected. If you are a member of the Corn Expert Group, be on the lookout for a posting to your committee. If you are not a member of the Corn Expert Group but wish to be, please contact Susie Rahn, our Executive Assistant at [SusieR@assoqh.org](mailto:SusieR@assoqh.org).
- ❖ The FeedAC Database Development committee continues to work in conjunction with the co-chairs of the Electronic Standardization Committee to finalize the structure of the FeedAC feed library so programming can commence.
- ❖ The USDA-ARS ensiled forages project (Oct/Nov 2008 update) is moving forward in data collection efforts with the help of those feed testing labs willing to cooperate. To date, they have collected roughly 150,000 observations of corn, legume, and grass silage. The data encompasses around 30 states, with >100 observations in the following states: AZ, CA, IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, PA, VA, WI. It is expected that an additional 100,000 observations will be received.

- ❖ The following update is part of a study that was conducted at the University of Wisconsin to determine in situ variation of ruminal digestion of distiller grains (DG) varying in source and processing prior to fermentation (Oct/Nov 2008 update). The update was provided by Dr. Wenzhu Yang, Research Scientist/Ruminant Nutrition, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada: Five DG samples from the FeedAC were examined. For the experimental procedure, 5 g of ground (2-mm) sample were put into the Dacron bag (9x18 cm) and incubated in the rumen of lactating dairy cows for 0, 2, 4, 8, 13, 18, 24 and 48 hours. The model  $y=a+b(1-e^{-kdt})$  was fitted to determine the kinetics of protein degradation, where a=soluble fraction; b=potential degradable fraction; kd=degradation rate constant at which b is degraded; and t=time of incubation. Effective degradability (ED) of protein was determined by  $ED=a+[bkd/(kd+kp)]$ , where kp=0.06/h. The full results of this study will be presented this summer at the National ADSA/ASAS meetings in Montreal.
  
- ❖ It is, indeed, with mixed feelings that FeedAC announces that Fred Lundy III, FeedAC Operations Manager, has tendered his resignation as Operations Manager and has accepted a full time position with Shur-Gain, a division of Nutreco Canada, Inc. Fred has been a most dedicated employee, and the board and the Acting Executive Director, in particular, will miss his cooperative spirit and his many contributions to the daily activities of the consortium. However, all agreed that Fred's resignation was a necessary cost-saving step for FeedAC. Over the past 8 months, FeedAC has dramatically reduced its operating costs by 1) no longer renting an operations office and storage facility in Homer, NY, 2) contracting with a cold storage facility in Des Moines, IA to significantly reduce our monthly sample storage costs, and 3) streamlining the sample collection, inventorying, splitting and NIR scanning process by having it all conducted at Sapienza Analytica, LLC, FeedAC's contract NIRS lab. However, true to his spirit and dedication, Fred wants to stay involved in FeedAC activities. A memorandum of understanding between FeedAC and Fred is currently being drafted.
  
- ❖ Please know that it is never too late to become a sponsor or member of FeedAC! Regarding sponsorships and memberships, if you were a sponsor or member this year and have not paid yet for 2009, please consider doing so now. In like fashion, if you still haven't gotten involved in FeedAC but want to see the organization succeed, please consider becoming a 2009 sponsor or member. The organization is finally on the cusp of being able to move forward with feed analysis and database generation, but additional financial resources and member participation are needed to do so.
  
- ❖ If this is the first update you are receiving from FeedAC, you can read all our past monthly updates, newsletters and popular press articles by visiting the "communications" sections of our website by clicking here: (<http://www.feedac.org/communications.asp>).
  
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**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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