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October/November 2008 Monthly Update

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- ❖ Three new ad hoc focus groups have been created in the discussion section of the website. The first is the “Electronic Data Transfer Standardization” Committee. This committee is being chaired by Drs. Dewayne Dill (Dalex Livestock Solutions) and Tom Tylutki (Ag Model Transfer Systems). The charge of this committee is to establish a standardized method of electronic data transfer from the feed testing labs to their clientele, from the feed companies to their nutritionists, and vice versa. This standard will also be used for data transmission from the feed testing labs to the FeedAC database and from the FeedAC database to modelers and others interested in electronic transfer of FeedAC data. A press release regarding this initiative can be found in an upcoming edition of Feedstuffs. We hope the feed and animal industries will support this initiative.

The second focus group is the “Selection and Data Checking Protocol” group. Chaired by Dr. Dave Mertens (USDA Forage Center), the charge of this committee is to create a statistical procedure by which NIRS spectra and chemical results obtained for all feedstuffs can be analyzed to identify samples of interest. These “interesting” samples can include: samples that need to be re-analyzed, samples that can be clustered into groups with similar analytical and spectral characteristics, and unique samples that are different from any group. Samples needing re-analysis will be identified by inconsistent results among the multiple laboratories or atypical relationships to spectra. These samples will need to be reanalyzed before the final grouping is determined. Sample groups within a feed will be used to identify sub-types within a feed ingredient. Because they are alike, not all the samples in a group need to be intensively analyzed, and only a representative sample needs to be intensively. Unique samples may include true outliers that should not be included in the feed ingredient or unusual samples that deserve intensive analysis. The creation of this selection protocol is pivotal to FeedAC’s ability to identify samples for intensive analysis.

The third focus group is the “Database Development” committee. As discussed in last month’s update, the charge of this committee is to create the initial infrastructure of the FeedAC master database by introducing a beta version for all members to review and comment on. Thanks to all who offered to help and be a part of this committee. Nutrient Focus Groups: be on the lookout for a posting within the week to review and provide comment on suggestions for the data that should be in the master database in your particular area of interest.

We look forward to the completion of the work of these committees. When completed, FeedAC will be in a position to move forward with feed analysis and the generation of the database in a more structured and cost effective way.

- ❖ FeedAC is collaborating with USDA-ARS. USDA-ARS researchers, led by Dr. C. Alan Rotz (University Park, PA), are measuring emissions from silage and developing a computer model for predicting emissions. After development and evaluation, it is anticipated that the model will be able to predict silage emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other important gases for any location within the U.S., based on a relatively small number of site-specific parameters. Emissions from silage are dependent on the chemical composition of silage. Therefore, as part of this research effort, ARS researchers need data on silage composition from a wide range of samples throughout the U.S. and that is where the collaboration with FeedAC comes in. In December, various FeedAC members will receive a questionnaire regarding the types of silage samples they analyze and the procedures used. If you have any questions, please contact Fred Lundy (fred.lundy@feedac.org or 315-663-5729) or Sasha Hafner (sasha.hafner@ars.usda.gov or 814-863-5991).
- ❖ FeedAC is also collaborating with researchers from the University of Wisconsin. Visiting research scientist Dr. Wenzhu Yang and FeedAC research collaborator Dr. Lou Armentano asked FeedAC to contribute DDGS samples for Dr. Yang's research project. The objectives of Dr. Yang's research are to: 1. develop a database for the nutrient composition and fermentation of DDGS; 2. determine mode of digestion and environmental impact when feeding DDGS varying in grain source and levels; 3. determine the optimum level of DDGS in rations. FeedAC contributed DDGS samples to the project and appreciates being asked to help with this important work
- ❖ The National Forage Testing Association (NFTA) requested, and FeedAC agreed, that FeedAC would provide NFTA with its recommended list of analysis for lab certification for soybean products. If you desire to serve on this ad hoc committee, please contact Fred Lundy (fred.lundy@feedac.org or 315-663-5729) or Chuck Schwab (charles.schwab@unh.edu or 603-767-2938).
- ❖ As noted in last months update, 1300 sponsorship/membership packets were mailed out. Thanks to those of you that have already renewed your sponsorships or memberships for 2009, or told us that you will be doing it. This year, packets contained a 2-page invitation letter and application. The information is available on the FeedAC homepage (www.feedac.org) for review.
- ❖ Regarding sponsorships and memberships, if you were a sponsor or member this year and have not paid yet for 2009, please consider doing so as soon as you can. 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 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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