

NIRS Forage and Feed Testing Consortium NEWS

May/June 2003

**Dedicated to Increasing the Accuracy
and Knowledge of NIRS Testing.**

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/forage/NIRS/home-page.htm>

NIRS Consortium Board Elections

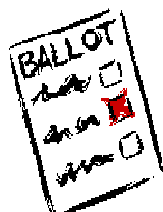


Thanks to all for voting in this year's NIRS Consortium Board Elections! This is YOUR Consortium and your vote is important. As per discussion at the NIRS Consortium annual meeting in February, and subsequent amendment to Bylaws by the Board of Directors:

Article V: Members

"Membership consists of either Voting Members or Collaborating Members. Each fee-paying laboratory shall have one vote in all NIRS Consortium matters. Collaborating Members may contribute to the NIRS Consortium from a research and extension standpoint or may act as a reference laboratory. Collaborating Members are not required to pay annual fees, and do not vote. Collaborating Members elected to the Board of Directors may serve as voting Board Members."

The votes are being tallied and results will be announced in the July/August Newsletter.



Pricing Structure Ballot for July Vote

At the Consortium Annual Conference in February, 2003, feedback was received on a proposed Pricing Structure for fiscal year 03-04 and sent back to the Finance Committee for revision. After further feedback from membership in March, the Finance Committee reviewed proposed changes and the updated Pricing Structure was sent out to members for a second round of feedback. The Board of Directors reviewed the final draft and agreed on a ballot to be presented to membership this summer.

Please expect to vote on this ballot during the first two weeks of July!

Thanks to members who sent in feedback, the Finance Committee, and the Board for all of your hard work during this process!

Please see below for a flowchart of rebate and invoicing sequences.

Billing Flow Chart for Pricing Structure

Package Sign up by
September 10th, 2003



Invoice on October 1st, 2003 for
a. annual dues
b. package sign-up



Request usage count 2X per year
a. Oct 1 — March 31
→ labs report by April 15th
→ billed May 1st

b. April 1 — Sept 30
→ labs report by Oct 15th
→ billed by Nov 1st



Rebates catalogued per
lab as received
a. from requested projects
e.g. local database
b. for ongoing updates



Rebates tallied through Sept 30th of
previous fiscal year
→ rebates given on next
year's package sign up
invoice
→ sent out Nov 1st



Package Sign up by September 10th
every year

Annual Dues Sent out on October 1st
every year

THE NIRS CONSORTIUM BUSINESS OFFICE IS MOVING!

As of **July 31st, 2003** the
Consortium Business Office will be
located at the following address:

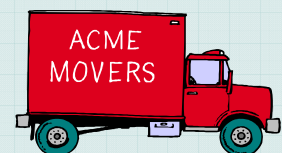
Patty Laskowski
E17995 Western Rd.
Hillsboro, WI 54634
pmlaskowski@wisc.edu

**Phone and Fax #'s are currently
being set up.** An update will be
sent out by mid-July. PLEASE
CONTACT PATTY FOR ALL
ORGANIZATION, BILLING, AND
MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS AT THIS
ADDRESS. ALL PAYMENTS WILL GO
TO THIS ADDRESS.

All other contacts for the
Consortium will remain the same.

PLEASE CONTACT SUSAN SELMAN
FOR ALL TECHNICAL AND
INSTRUMENT QUESTIONS AT HER
CURRENT ADDRESS:

1925 Linden Dr. West
Madison, WI 53706
608-264-5232
slselman@wisc.edu



Consortium Website has Info on Energy Calculations



See the Consortium website at:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/forage/NIRS/home-page.htm>

Look under **Digestible Fiber and RFQ** for a link to energy and other calculations that are in Consortium equation outputs. You will find the references for each of the calculations here as well.

See the 5000 Equation documents (or 4500 where appropriate) for a list of the calculations that come with each equation.

NIRS Software

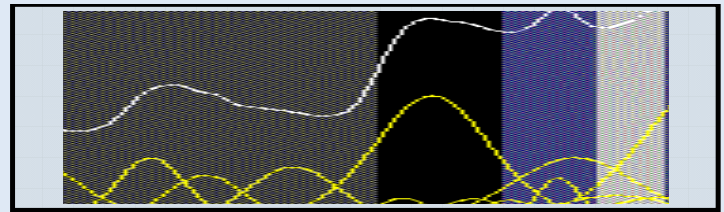
With the release of ISIScan software from FOSS, we are seeing some benefits to this software. Labs may want to consider if it is appropriate for their needs.

Benefits include:

- 1) 32 bit speed
- 2) Outlier detecting/ can set limits for each equation
- 3) Can track individual samples
- 4) Can go back and run samples with a different equation
- 5) Quality control is better and fits into Consortium equation update plans
- 6) Diagnostics is more extensive

Please check FOSS's ISI home website for information about ISIScan and to take a tour:

<http://68.70.113.254:8080/winisi/isiscan/isiscanhome.htm>



Summer NIRS Training Workshop is Scheduled!

The summer Training Workshop is set for August 11th and 12th. Two half days; afternoon of the 11th and morning of the 12th; will be dedicated to learning about ISIScan as well as Quality Control.

An agenda and further information will be sent out shortly.

Project Updates

I. Round-Robin Starch Determination

Sample analysis has been completed by 10 of 12 labs participating in the sample exchange. Mary Beth Hall has been sent the data and she is reviewing. Mary Beth will contact the Consortium and the labs with feedback. We expect to have an update and summary by the next Consortium Annual Conference.

II. Microwave and Oven Drying Study

Participating labs are currently analyzing samples to compare microwave vs. oven drying. The project is being headed up by the USDFRC with Susan analyzing samples there. The Dairy Center will expect to have an update for the Consortium Annual Conference as well.

III. Samples for Updating Equations

One hundred-thirty samples have been sent to Marshfield in June for analysis of Ash and dNDF. These samples will help update the 5000 equations. Samples include corn silage, alfalfa, haylage, but mostly warm and cool season grasses. These warm and cool season grasses should extend out the ranges of our grass equation.

This is YOUR Consortium

This is YOUR Consortium! To serve you better, we'd like to know your needs and concerns. The projects on the left are based off of membership needs and requests. Let us know if you have other needs! Contact Patty with your ideas.



For further information on any of these topics, please contact Patty Laskowski.

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