

NIRS Forage and Feed Testing Consortium NEWS

July/August 2003

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

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

NIRS Consortium Board Election Results



Thanks to all for voting in this year's NIRS Consortium Board Elections! This is YOUR Consortium and your vote is always important.

The following people have been (re)elected to serve on the NIRS Consortium Board

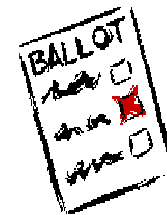
for a term of 3 years beginning October 1, 2003:

Commercial Sector:
Tim Snyder

Government or University Sector:
Dan Undersander

Seed Research Sector:
David Johnson

Thank you to those who participated as candidates and to all the membership for your vote!



Pricing Structure Ballot Results

After a process of proposal, feedback, and revision, the Pricing Structure for fiscal year 03-04 was sent out in a ballot in early July. The results of the voting are as follows:

Seventeen of 20 responding members voted for the pricing structure as outlined on the ballot. Three of the responding members voted for alternatives.

The Pricing Structure as outlined on the July ballot is passed.

Thanks to everyone for your participation and feedback in this process!

Please see below for a flowchart of rebate and invoicing sequences under this Pricing Structure.

Pricing Structure Sign-Up By Sept. 10th

A Sign-Up Sheet listing each of the Consortium Pricing Structure packages will be sent out after the Labor Day holiday. Please be prepared for your lab to fill out the form and return by Sept. 10th,

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

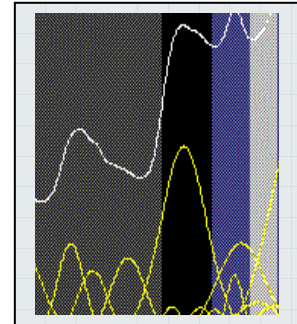


Rebates tallied through Sept 30th of previous fiscal year
 → rebates given on next year's package sign-up invoice
 → invoice sent out Nov 1st subsequent years



Package Sign up by September 10th every year
 (invoice sent out Nov 1st every year except 2003)

Annual Dues Sent out on October 1st every year



NIRS Summer Workshop in Review

Training for this summer's NIRS Consortium workshop focused on ISIScan. On the first day, Mark Matteson from Foss introduced ISIScan and showed participants how to set up the program and the instrument, including instrument, attachment, operation, and standardization profiles. How to scan samples, generate reports, and use LIMS to create spreadsheets was also covered.

On the second day, Susan discussed step-by-step how to take the previous day's information and apply it in a lab's context and the Consortium's context. For example, setting up the soybean and forage check cells was covered, as well as running diagnostics and reporting on the Consortium website.

The slides from the training will soon be available on our website. These slides tell you step-by-step how to set up the soybean and forage check cells, & how to do diagnostics in ISIScan.

Summer Samples for Equation Updates

Please remember to send spectra of any outlier samples to Susan slselman@wisc.edu. We currently have 130 samples in for analysis to update a variety of our equations, but to especially expand the dNDF equations. We need to keep this process going, so if you have any spectra from outliers this summer, please send to Susan right away. She'll get back to each lab with further information on which spectra are selected and the need for any chemistry data or physical samples.

Thank you all!



Starch Round-Robin Update

All the starch and sugar (where applicable) results from labs participating in the round-robin starch determination have been

sent to Mary Beth Hall at the University of Florida. She has summarized the data and is in the process of writing up a report.

anonymity preserved).

During this process, recommendation will be made regarding which way to move forward in developing a Consortium starch equation and in aiding labs in their methods for accurately determining starch.

We expect this report to be sent to labs by mid-September.



We have been in discussion as to what further questions we can ask, and what to add to the report.

After this, the report will be sent to all the participating labs and the Consortium (with lab

Equation Packaging

Often times the Board of Directors, Patty, or Susan get inquiries from laboratories, researchers, nutritionists, etc. wanting to know what the NIRS Consortium is and what we have to offer. The way in which the above Pricing Structure groups the Consortium's equations and packages is based on grouping fees and membership participation for rebates. This structure also groups equations more closely by nutritional outputs.

The table to the right, (Fig.1) groups Consortium equations based on products. This is a complete list of all the products and constituents the Consortium has to offer.

Figure 1. Consortium Product Equation Packages

Package	Description	Versions Available		
		I	II	III
Mixed Hay	legume & grass hays	X	X	X
Mixed Haylage	legume & grass haylages	X	X	X
Alfalfa Hay	alfalfa hay only	X	X	
Grass Hay	warm & cool season grasses	X	X	
Corn Silage Fermented	fermented corn silage	X	X no RFQ	
Alfalfa Breeders	fresh cut alfalfa: research			X
Roasted Soybeans	roasted soybeans		other	
Scissors Clip	fresh clip alfalfa		other	
Corn Silage Unfermented	unfermented corn silage		other	

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

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