

NIRS Forage and Feed Testing Consortium NEWS

February 2006



Dedicated to Increasing the Accuracy and Knowledge of NIRS Testing.

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

Annual Conference 2006 Preview



The NIRSC project committees appointed at last year's conference have been working hard all year to achieve the objectives set out by our membership. Here is a preview of what each committee with report to you at the upcoming conference.

Project Name	Status
NAMA	The objective of this project is to generate program details that will establish credibility in analytical consistency within NIRS. This committee has developed and distributed a survey of member labs to get an idea of which NIRSC equations are being used. We also wanted to know if the original equations were being modified or biased in any way. The summary of these surveys will be presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting. As part of this project, Alistair also began re-standardizing member labs.
NIRSC Intellectual Property	The objective of this project was to protect NIRSC property and protect the certainty of ownership with existing projects. The committee drafted a research agreement for NIRSC and those parties interested in using our data and also drafted language to amend the NIRSC by laws. The NIRSC Board approved the documents and language in Sept., 2005 and one research agreement is currently in place.
NIRSC Membership Classes	The objective of this project was to define membership categories for our membership campaign. Four membership categories have been approved by the NIRSC Board to include Regular, Research/Non-Profit, Sponsorship, and Collaborators. These categories have been implemented beginning Oct. 1, 2005.
Unfermented Corn Silage Equation	The objective of this project was to review the applicability of the Coors/Laur equation and outline liability indemnification if WARF licensing is used. The NIRSC Board voted to create an independent NIRSC unfermented corn silage (UCS) equation. A reference lab was selected using a bid process, samples have been selected and analyzed, and the equation should be ready in February 2006.
NIRSC/RFAC	The objective of this project is to detail how to partner these two organizations. At this time NIRSC is waiting for RFAC to establish itself as an organization. After this is done, partnership will again be discussed.

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Starch	The objective of this project is to receive a "recommended" procedure from Mary Beth Hall and to outline implications for other NIRSC products. Mary Beth prepared an Update on Starch Analysis Evaluation that was posted in the summer 2005 newsletter. We look forward to further updates by Mary Beth.
Cincinnati Meeting	The objective of this project was to put on an NIR seminar during the Dairy Science meetings in Cincinnati at the end of July, 2005 and establish NIR utility with a white paper as a product. The meeting was a success with 96 people attending. Don Sapienza will present the material/white paper produced from the meeting speakers.

Welcome New Members

The Noble Foundation's Forage Analysis Lab is located in Ardmore, Oklahoma and works on forage improvement and other scientific study. You can learn more about them and visit their website at: <http://www.noble.org>.

Koelker Forage Lab is located in Dyersville, Iowa and does NIR forage testing. You can learn more about them and visit their website at:

<http://www.koelkerlab.com>.

Sapienza Analytica is located in Slater, Iowa and provides digestion measurements to nutritionists.

Equation Expansion

The NIRSC looks forward to expanding its equations with ever broader types of "typical" forages such as alfalfa haylage and corn silage. But there are a multitude of forage species that our members come across in their research or daily laboratory work. For example, recently 64 Sudan spectra have been selected and analyzed for chemistry. This data will be used to update the NIRSC grass equation in 2006.

This grass equation contains both warm and cool season grasses of both annual and perennial type.

Other interesting warm season grass species coming from Georgia will also update this equation and include Bermuda, Fescue, Peanut, Bahia, and Millet.

Thanks to our members who participate and identify data

sets such as these. In this way, we make our equations and our entire consortium stronger.

For further information on any of these topics, please contact
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