

NIRS Forage and Feed Testing Consortium NEWS

Fall 2007

Dedicated to Increasing the Accuracy and Knowledge of NIRS Testing.



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

2008 Conference Planning

2007 Work

Looking back at the February 2007 annual conference, we put a lot on our plate to work on. We organized 12 committees in order to categorize and handle projects and requests. The goal of our organization structure with a board and a set of committees is to be mission driven, and to put projects and inquiries into a process for action. See the list of NIRSC 2007 Committees below detailed with projects, goals, and committee members. These committees will be making reports to the NIRSC attendees at the upcoming February 2008 conference. Also during the 2008 conference we will have a planning session and appoint members to each committee again. You may contact any of the committee chairs if you are interested in serving in 2008.

The 2008 JOINT Conference

We are greatly looking forward to the February 2008 annual conference because

NIRSC will be carrying out a joint conference with the Feed Analysis Consortium (FeedAC) as well as the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). This is the first joint conference for NIRSC with these other organizations. The goal of this meeting is to provide an environment in which the members and boards of the three organizations meet to consider topics and areas of common interest as well as to discuss common goals and plan joint efforts, and leverage strengths.

The conference will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana at the University Place Conference Center & Hotel on February 13th & 14th for general sessions. Then the NIRSC Board will participate in an organizational planning session for half a day on February 15th.

All information and materials for registration, conference facility, hotel information, conference agenda, and



sponsorship are posted on each organization's website. So just go to the NIRSC website and click on the joint conference materials at the top of the page.

Highlights of the conference topics include: comparison of NRC & Cornell models, inputting lab values into the CPM model, NDF digestibility current status, fatty acid analysis, a European perspective using NIR, nitrogen update, lignin analysis, introduction to AAFCO, starch and sugar analysis, starch availability, in vitro and in situ analysis, NIRS and sample differences, forage/feed test accuracy and precision, NIRS instrumentation displays, and joint discussions between NIRSC, FeedAC, and NFTA. For complete program details as well as scheduled speakers, please see the posted conference agenda.

NIRSC 2007 Committees

Committee	Objectives/Tasks	Committee Members
Quality Assurance	review issues and recommend actions that relate to the quality and accuracy of NIRSC products and processes	Seth Willis, Doug Harland, Patty Laskowski, Tim Snyder, Michelle Walter, Lisa Bauman Chair: Doug Harland
NIRSC Intellectual Property	establish protection for NIRSC property and certainty of ownership with existing projects	Don Meyer, Chuck Kahl, David Johnson, Tom Griggs, Patty Laskowski Chair: Don Meyer
Membership	develop membership campaign	Paul Vendrell, Sam Stratton, Patty Laskowski Chair: Paul Vendrell
NIRSC/Feed AC	detail how to partner these two organizations	Don Meyer, Seth Willis, Dave Taysom, Dan Undersander Chair: Don Meyer
Calibration & Standardization Oversight	organize NIRSC equation processes, follow up on parameters of interest to membership, develop member participation	Chuck Kahl, Paul Vendrell, Steve Fransen, Dennis Walker, Paul Martin, Jeff Boedigheimer, Patty Laskowski <u>Chair: Chuck Kahl</u> Subcommittee on Sugar: Dan Undersander, Sam Stratton, Chuck Kahl, Jesse Sanders/ Dan Undersander Chair
Finance	oversee budget development, advise on purchases & expenses to follow budget	Dave Whalen, Dan Undersander, Neal Martin, Patty Laskowski <u>Chair: Dave Whalen</u> Subcommittee on Grants: Chuck Kahl, Patty Laskowski
Executive	set goals and vision for NIRSC, follow up and take action on special NIRSC issues, follow and make recommendations for NIRSC personnel progress	David Johnson, Chuck Kahl, Dave Whalen Chair: David Johnson
Instrument	oversee interaction and development of process between NIRSC and instrument companies	NIRSC Lead Committee: Paolo Berzaghi, Dan Undersander, Bruce Marshall, Patty Laskowski Chair: Dan Undersander
White Paper	publishing white paper	Neal Martin
NIRSC Nutrition Advisory Committee	advise NIRSC on nutrition issues on which to focus	Tim Snyder (main contact), Dave Mertens, Mike Hutjens, Jim Linn, Randy Shaver, Larry Chase, Peter Robinson, Paolo Berzaghi, Mary Beth Hall, Bill Weiss, Pat Hoffman
Joint Conference Committee 2008	develop agenda and assist in planning conference	Patty Laskowski, Dawn Learned, Chuck Kahl, Duane Osmanski, Dan Undersander, Chuck Schwab, Fred Lundy, Don Meyer, Dave Taysom Chair: Chuck Kahl
Plant Breeders Committee 2008	develop projects specific to plant breeders	David Johnson, Dave Whalen, Sam Stratton, Dave Sevenich, Patty Laskowski

Postings and Services on the NIRSC Website



The NIRSC website has some new links, postings, and services.

1. Go under Consortium Activities to access the document "Guidelines for Optimizing Accuracy and Consistency in the NIRSC Laboratory." This is the list of methods for sample handling and NIRS scanning compiled and recommended by NIRSC for its member laboratories. We need each member laboratory to review this document and provide feedback. Responses may be sent to Patty Laskowski.
2. Click on Joining the Consortium to find a link to the Bylaws of the NIRS Forage and Feed Testing Consortium.
3. NIRSC has a technical support service. Click on NIRS Consortium Technical Support to get to this

webpage. Request a username and password from Paolo Berzaghi (paolo.berzaghi@unipd.it) to enter the webpage. You can choose a category for your service request such as equations, sample selections, software, or standardizations. Then you can write a description of the question or request and submit it. The question or request will go to Paolo Berzaghi for review. This webpage is a benefit to us because you can submit your spectra here as well as asking questions. The webpage keeps track of previous inquiries and in this way we can have a library of questions and answers and develop a list of frequently asked questions.

4. Under Links, click on UWEX Milk2006 Instructions and Spreadsheet. This will take you to the UW Forage Research and

Extension website, where you can click on Milk 2006. Here you will find instructions and summary, a spreadsheet for alfalfa and grass, and a spreadsheet for corn silage. The new milk2006 spreadsheet for alfalfa and grasses has some changes from previous releases (milk2000). The changes bring it in line with the corn silage milk/acre spreadsheet. Milk per acre numbers in the alfalfa and grasses sheet are slightly different and lower than previous; RFV and RFQ are unchanged. The spreadsheet has calculations hidden and is protected to prevent people accidentally changing an equation. Nothing is secret and the equations will be released to those that request them.

NIRSC Starch in Fermented Corn Silage Equation Now Available!

NIRSC has just completed the development of a new Starch in Fermented Corn Silage Equation. This first version of the equation is available to all NIRSC equation-using members for a trial time at no cost. Simply contact Patty Laskowski to sign up and receive this equation. When the 2008 regular equation sign-ups take place, this equation will then have a fee associated. The next round of sign-ups will most likely take place in spring or summer of 2008.

2007-2008 Board & Officers

The Officers and Board of Directors for the NIRSC 2007-2008 fiscal year are:

<i>President</i> David Johnson Cal/West Seeds	<i>Vice President</i> Chuck Kahl Mycogen Seeds/Dow AgroSciences	<i>Treasurer</i> Dave Whalen Forage Genetics Int'l.
Sam Stratton FFR Cooperative	Jerry Dekan Dairyland Laboratories, Inc.	Doug Harland AgSource Cooperative Services
Tim Hoerner Agri Analysis, Inc.	Paul Vendrell Univ. of Georgia- Feed & Environmental Water Lab	Craig Sheaffer Univ. of Minnesota Agronomy and Plant Genetics
Steve Fransen Washington State University Extension- Prosser	Neal Martin (<i>Ex Officio</i>) US Dairy Forage Research Center	Dan Undersander (<i>Ex Officio</i>) Univ. of Wisconsin- Agronomy

Request for Your Questions

Once again during the NIRSC annual conference time, we will have a session devoted to answering your technical questions. We have set aside time for Paolo Berzaghi to

respond to questions that NIRSC members send in to us in advance. We have had a very good response to this session and it has been called for by our members for several

years in a row. Please send in any technical questions you have to Patty Laskowski. The questions will be collected and addressed during Paolo's session.

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

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