



Excellence in Forage and Feed Testing for the Farmer

e-news
from
NIRSC

NIRSC Forage and Feed Testing Consortium

learn more at: <http://nirscconsortium.org>

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WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please complete the [NEW Membership Survey](#).

Membership Survey 2011

A new membership survey is available from the NIRSC website or directly through the link above. The information to be gathered in this survey is important in helping the NIRSC know how to help its membership and to plan for the future of the organization.

To get to the survey from the NIRSC website, go to nirscconsortium.org. On the Home Page, just scroll down to **Quicklinks** and click on the survey link. You will be able to complete and submit the survey online.

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Reviewing the 2011 Annual Conference

Proceedings The presentations are posted on the NIRSC website at nirscconsortium.org. Just go to the left menu and click on News and Events.

Major Themes & Topics Lab accuracy, quality, and certification were addressed in several presentations. Brian Shreve, NFTA Data Manager began by discussing NFTA's certification process and updates to that program. Following that was a panel discussion highlighting the need for

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consistency between labs. This panel discussion also noted that more buyers and sellers of hay are becoming aware of NIRSC and its efforts. Later, Dave Mertens discussed a dry matter methods study in which variation was identified in lab results and methodology—subsequently encouraging the initiation of development of a standard sample processing/dry matter method that minimizes the sources of variation. Finally, the last presentations of the conference outlined in detail the sample handling protocols endorsed by NIRSC.

Biofuels was a large part of the discussions over the conference days. A tour of an ethanol plant at E-Energy Adams, NE exhibited the raw material and processes involved in generating ethanol on a commercial scale. The next day biofuel yield prediction was discussed in the context of lab methodology, chemistry of plant products, and development of an NIRS calibration to predict bioenergy from Switchgrass.

A third conference theme was once again NIRS instrumentation, which included updates by all of our NIRSC instrument vendors, as well as discussions by Woody Barton and John Shenk describing portable NIR instrumentation and its application.

Actions and Take-Away from the Conference NIRSC Committees and Board will be focusing on updating NIRSC internal processes and interface with members on equation development. We will also follow up on steps to work with USDA-ARS in obtaining and expanding an ethanol yield prediction equation. Related to this is the potential involvement from our members in testing for biofuel yield from several plant stocks. Also of interest to NIRSC and its members is the evolution of portable NIRS units and its impact on traditional dried and ground sample testing.

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Equation Updates for 2011 Coming Soon!

Equation updates for 2011 will be available soon. We will have updates for the commercial products: Alfalfa/Legume Hay, Grass Hay, Mixed haylage, and Fermented Corn Silage. Specific parameters that will be updated are dNDF48hr, starch in fermented corn silage, as well as many samples for “typical” constituents such as CP, ADF, and NDF. Lignin in grasses is still under development and adjustment with goal availability this spring. In addition, the constituent dNDF30hr is still under construction. Samples for the 30hr constituent were collected in several rounds with a recent batch of samples up for selection. Chemistry has been completed on these samples as they are selected and the process will continue until we reach a minimum of 100 samples per product, which include all of the five commercial equations listed above.

There will also be an update available for Unfermented Corn Silage and the Alfalfa Breeders Equation is on target for a goal release date of May 1.

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**The NIRS Forage and
Feed Testing Consortium
(NIRSC)**

Our Mission:

**The NIRS Forage and
Feed Testing Consortium
Leads the Industry in
unifying knowledge,
accuracy, and application
of NIRSC technology.**

Our Vision:

**The NIRS Forage and
Feed Testing Consortium
is the leading global
association to increase
the accuracy and
availability of NIRSC by
supporting its needs in
agriculture.**

We strive to support
excellence in forage and feed
testing and support our
members in promoting
knowledge and accuracy of
NIR by being a central point
for uniformity,
standardization, and good
practices.

Annual Dues for 2011 and Payment Options

It is time for Annual NIRSC Membership Dues for 2011. An invoice for dues will be sent out to each Member based on membership category. You can review the [NIRSC Membership Classes](#) at the NIRSC website. For 2011, pricing for membership categories will remain the same at \$2500 for Regular, \$2000 for Instrument Vendor, \$1000 for Research/Nonprofit, and \$1500 for Sponsorship.

Members will again have the option to make one payment for 2011 dues or make four payments. With four payments, additional invoices will be issued about every other month if the member selects that option.

Members will continue to have options for method of payment, including both check and credit card. If paying by credit card is preferred, members now have an **online option for paying**. Simply go to the NIRSC website and click on [Make Payments](#) in the left menu. Then click on **Pay for Membership Dues**. You will be taken to a checkout page in which you can add to a cart the appropriate fee for your membership category and then check out using Google Checkout. Also available on the checkout page is an option for making quarterly payments.

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New Screening Process for Member Samples

-Jacob Karlen

The equation development process is being updated to increase the speed and efficiency of sample screening. The time delay between spectra submission and the returned screening report was averaging over 20 days. To improve this, Paolo has provided me with the files necessary to perform these screenings. The new reports will include fields requesting further information on the samples, additionally improving the efficiency of the Consortium sample and information collection. Thank you for your patience as we make this transition.

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NIRSC Membership List

An updated Membership List is available at the NIRSC website under [Members of NIRSC 2011](#). This is in a printable format. Please let the NIRSC business office know of any updates or revisions to be made to the membership list.