

AminoCow© ReadMe Information

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INSTALL AMINOCOW© UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE FILE. A NEW FILE STRUCTURE HAS BEEN ADDED AND OTHER CHANGES INTRODUCED. YOU RISK LOSING EXISTING RATIONS IF THE INSTALLATION IS NOT DONE PROPERLY.

The AminoCow© version 3.5.2 installer will walk you through the installation process and install/upgrade the AminoCow© program, including all resources and data files necessary to run AminoCow©.

Versions of AminoCow©

AminoCow© is available in three distinct licenses. You will be prompted to select which license you wish to install during the installation process. Each version of AminoCow© now requires a registered license in order to complete the installation and run the program. However, there is still no cost associated with the standard version of AminoCow©. If you do not have a license key, please visit our web site at <http://www.NittanyDairyNutrition.com> to submit a license request.

- 1) **Standard License:** The Standard license of AminoCow© is available free of charge and contains the core functions of the AminoCow© nutrition system. With a standard license, you will be able to manage your feeds, build and evaluate rations, maintain feed lists and feed libraries. If you download the standard version a license file will be generated and sent to you almost immediately. If you receive the standard version on CD, you will have 48 hrs from the time you first run the program to request a valid license file.
- 2) **Plus License:** The Plus license of AminoCow© offers a number of additional features, including automated download of analyses from approved feed labs, NDF and NFC Digestibility calculations, Environmental Impact Analysis and more. In order to receive the Plus Version you must be approved by Evonik Industries, RP Nutrition or Nittany Dairy Nutrition, Inc. Please contact one of these companies to receive the Plus version of AminoCow©.
- 3) **Company License:** The Company version of AminoCow© is designed for organizations with multiple users. It contains all of the features of the Plus license, plus additional Company Feeds, Mill Feeds and Company Mix options. A contract must exist between Evonik Industries and the designated company before this version of the program can be downloaded. Please contact Evonik or Nittany Dairy Nutrition, Inc. if you or your company is interested in the company version of AminoCow©.

Please read the following instructions carefully, particularly if you are upgrading an existing version of AminoCow©.

First Time Installation

If you are installing AminoCow© for the first time or if you do not have previous rations you wish to save, please follow these instructions:

- 1) On the Choose Your Version screen, you will be prompted to select the license of AminoCow© that you would like to install. Select the version of AminoCow© for which you have been granted a license.
- 2) Upon selecting the desired license type, you will be prompted to enter your user name, company name and license key. You must enter this information exactly as provided to you in your license.
- 3) When running AminoCow© for the first time, the application will update your data structures, validate your license and enable the appropriate options. This may take a moment, so please be patient.

Upgrading An Existing Version

When upgrading an existing copy of AminoCow©, please note the following instructions to ensure the upgrade is installed correctly and your existing data is imported into the new version.

- 1) Backup your existing data files... While the installer will backup your existing data files prior to upgrading the application, we recommend that you copy the contents of your AminoCow© Data and ProgData folders to another location prior to running this setup program. These folders can typically be located in C:\Program Files\Mepron30 or C:\Program Files\AminoCow.

VISTA USERS: In addition to backing up your Data and ProgData folders in the Program Files directory, you must also backup the AminoCow files located in your Window's virtual store. This folder is difficult to find, so we have provided detailed instructions below...

- From the Start menu, type "run" in the Start Search area. Then hit Enter.
- In the resulting Run dialog window, type "c:\users\[Window's User Name]\appdata\local\virtualstore", substituting your Window's login user name between the slashes as indicated.
Example: "c:\users\jsmith\appdata\local\virtualstore"
- Hit Enter to open the virtual store folder.
- Next, open (double-click) the "Program Files" or "Program Files (x86)" (on 64 bit computers) directory.
- Next, open (double-click) the AminoCow directory (typically "AminoCow" or "Mepron30").
- Backup all of the files in this folder.

- 2) Then run the AminoCow setup program, either from the provided CD or downloaded from the web site.
- 3) On the Choose Your Version screen of the installation, you will be prompted to select the license of AminoCow© that you would like to install. Select the version of AminoCow© for which you have been granted a license.
- 4) Upon selecting the desired license type, you will be prompted to enter your user name, company name and license key. You must enter this information exactly as provided to you in your license.
- 5) Install on top of your existing version. On the Destination Location screen, you will be prompted to select where you would like to install the application. The installer will default to C:\Program Files\AminoCow. If you have installed AminoCow© in another location (versions prior to 3.5 may have been installed in a Mepron30 folder, for example), select the desired location from the directory listing.

IMPORTANT: The installer may append "\AminoCow" to the selected installation path. Verify the path in the box labeled "Destination Folder"; and if necessary, delete the "\AminoCow" from this path. The directory path listed in this box must accurately represent the correct location of your existing version of AminoCow©.

- 6) When running AminoCow© for the first time, the application will update your data structures, import your existing data, validate your license and enable the appropriate options. This may take a moment, please be patient.
- 7) After the data structures are updated, the program will validate your existing feeds for correct type and class assignment. You may be prompted to re-classify one or more of your existing feeds.

Important Notifications to Previous Users

There have been several important modifications to the AminoCow© program and to the placement of files. All user editable data has been moved to the ProgData folder. Due to changes in the data structure of the AminoCow© databases as well as the structure of ProgData, once the new version is installed, it will be very

difficult to return to a previous version.

Significant Changes in this Version of AminoCow

ALL Users

1. The supply of MP has been changed to be about 10% greater. This is because of an error in the formula used to calculate MP. The supply of individual amino acids, however, is not changed as they were calculated with different formulas. Also the MP requirement has not changed. This change will be applied to legacy rations when they are opened and upgraded.
2. A new default calculation of dry matter intake for pasture cows has been added. This is accessed on the Main Worksheet by clicking on the 'Modify' command and then selecting 'Change DMI'. This equation has been shown to be more accurate in pasture situations because NDF often limits intake before energy intake as is seen in TMR. You may reset the DMI prediction by selecting 'Default'. Please read the 'Help' on DMI in pasture situations and our suggestions for using it.

PLUS and Company Users

1. There is a provision for automatic download of laboratory samples. For those users who had version 3.5.1, this feature is unchanged. For those upgrading from the standard version, please see the 'Help' section for use of this feature.
2. An NDF/NFC digestibility prediction has been added. At present, this has not been incorporated into the main model. It is best used to compare the digestibility among feeds and to adjust the energy value accordingly. Access this command from the Ration Worksheet by selecting the 'Options' command and then selecting 'NDF/NFC Digestibility'
3. An environmental module has been introduced for calculation of manure and urine production and for excretion of N, P and K. This is in response to regulatory pressure to reduce N and P emissions. Access this command from the Ration Worksheet by selecting the 'Options' command and then selecting 'Environmental Impact'.