

The AminoCow “Manage Lab Samples” Screen

For those users who are interested in maintaining some type of lab sample history, the “Lab Sample Manager” screen provides some basic tools for viewing data, managing the archive and lab queue and exporting selected lab samples to a text file. The exported text file can easily be imported into a spreadsheet such as Excel or most statistical programs for further analysis. The “Lab Manager” itself, however, does not include any statistical analysis or reporting functions.

The “Lab Manager” works on the principle of selecting views of samples. Each view is a set of data from either the archive or the lab queue. All operations after the selection of a view affect only the samples in the view. The top grid on the “Lab Manager Screen” displays the header information for lab samples in the current view. The “ACClient” field is the AminoCow client code associated with the sample. The “ACFeed” field displays the database name of the AminoCow feed associated with the sample. Note that since feeds can be renamed at anytime, the “ACFeed” name may be different than the name of the blended feed saved in a ration. For example, the original AminoCow feed may have been “Corn sil 40% grain”, while the blended feed is “Big Silo Corn 06/01/06”. In this case the “ACFeed” field will contain “Corn sil 40% grain”, while the “Feed” field in the nutrient display will show “Big Silo Corn 06/01/06.”

If you are viewing unused feeds in the lab queue, the “ACFeed”, “ACClient” and the “UsedDate” field will be blank. The “LogDate” field always contains the date the sample was imported into AminoCow, while fields “Col 1” – “Col 6” contain sample information supplied by the laboratory.

The three options available from the “Lab Manager Menu” are ‘Manage Archive Samples’, ‘Manage Lab Queue’, and ‘Utilities’. The ‘Manage Archive Samples’ options are ‘Selected Client’ and ‘All’. The sample archive is organized on the basis of client codes with each sample associated with a particular client. To display the samples associated with a particular client, choose the ‘Selected Client’ option and then from the drop-down list, choose the appropriate client. All samples in the archive associated with the selected client are displayed in the upper grid organized by “ACFeed” and “UsedDate”. Note that as you scroll through the top grid, the nutrients for the sample are displayed in the bottom grid. If you select the ‘All’ option, all samples in the archive are displayed organized by “Client”, “ACFeed” and “UsedDate”.

If you select ‘Manage Lab Queue’, the available options are: ‘Selected Client’, ‘Unused’, ‘Used’ and ‘All’. If you select a client, any samples in the queue that have been associated with the client are displayed organized by “ACFeed” and “UsedDate”. If you select ‘Unused’, all samples that have not been used are displayed and are organized by “LogDate”. If ‘Used’ is selected, all samples in the queue that have been used are displayed and are organized by “Client”, “ACFeed”, and “UsedDate”. If ‘All’ is chosen, all samples in the queue are displayed and are organized by “Client”, “ACFeed”, “UsedDate” and “LogDate”.

The Utility Menu has one option, ‘Select Display Columns’. This option presents a drop-down list of available nutrient columns. Check the columns that you wish to see displayed on the screen or exported to a text file.

Operations on the Archive

The operations available for the Archive are ‘Delete By Date’, ‘Sort’ and ‘Export’. The ‘Delete By Date’ option allows you to select one of several pre-defined date ranges for deleting samples from the archive or allows you to select your own deletion date. All samples with dates older than the selected delete date are removed from the archive when you confirm the deletion option.

The ‘Sort’ option allows you to select a column from the upper grid for changing the sort order of the display. For example, if you use several labs and all labs use ‘Col 1’ for the lab name, selecting ‘Col 1’ as the sort column, sorts the display by laboratory.

'Export' exports the current samples, including the nutrient columns to a tab delimited text file named AC_LabSamples.txt. This file is always in the AminoCow documents folder, usually C:\AminoCowDocs. At the time of export you have the option of including the lab columns in the header as part of the file. (The lab columns are Col 1 – Col 6). If these columns are not included the export file will contain the "ACClient", "ACFeed", "LogDate", and "UsedDate" fields, plus the nutrient columns that are displayed in the lower grid. The export file will contain one entry for each sample in the current display.

The format of the AC_LabSamples file is designed to make it easy to import the data into a spreadsheet such as Excel or any other application that allows the import of tab delimited files. To import the AC_Log Sample file into Excel 2000 or later, open Excel and under the 'Data' tab select 'Get External Data'. From the options select 'Import Text File' and select "C:\AminoCowDocs\AC_LogSamples.txt" as the file to import. At the first Text Import Wizard screen accept the default options and click 'Next'. At the second screen, make sure that "Tab" is checked as the delimiter and then click 'Next'. At the third screen, accept the default options and then finish the import. Excel will import and then display the text file.

Operations on the Lab Queue

The operations on the Lab Queue are 'Delete By Date', 'Sort', 'Export', 'Delete Unused Samples' and 'Archive Used Samples'. The first three operations are identical to the operations on the Archive. 'Delete Unused Samples' allows you to delete samples older than a selected date that have not been used. This option is only available when viewing unused samples in the lab queue. The 'Archive Used' procedure used samples older than a selected date. The default is to archive all used samples older than 15 days. Note that only samples in the current view are archived. Thus if you are viewing samples for a selected client and click 'Archive Used Samples', only samples for that client will be archived.