

The Lab Analysis Screen

The “Lab Analysis Screen” briefly described in the overview section displays the lab queue and provides some basic management tools for the lab queue. If you are not interested in maintaining an archive of lab samples, then this screen should provide all of the tools necessary to import lab samples and maintain the lab queue. If you are interested in maintaining an archive of lab samples, a more extensive set of tools is available by selecting ‘Feeds’ from the AminoCow “Main Menu” and then selecting ‘Manage Lab Samples’. This option is discussed in the following section.

The Structure of a Lab Sample

Lab samples as generated by participating laboratories have two parts (1) a lab header providing basic information about the lab sample and (2) sample nutrients providing the actual analysis. Laboratories may provide somewhat different sets of information in the lab header section and will also provide a somewhat different set of nutrients in a lab analysis. AminoCow leaves the definition of the content of the lab header to the individual laboratories. While AminoCow requires that the nutrient fields follow AminoCow rules, AminoCow does not require that any particular set of nutrients be included in a lab analysis. In addition, laboratories may include nutrients not found in AminoCow. If such nutrients are included, AminoCow ignores them, but they may appear in a report provided by the laboratory.

The lab queue displays header information for samples as transmitted by a laboratory plus some additional fields that may or may not have values. The sample header information as provided by the laboratory is found in Columns 1 through 6. If the laboratory follows AminoCow recommendations on the structure of the sample header, then Column 1 contains the name of the laboratory; Column 2 contains a laboratory id or account number; Column 3 contains the date the analysis was performed; Column 4 contains the name of the client as known to the laboratory; Column 5 contains the name of the feed as known to the laboratory; and Column 6 contains a feed type code as assigned by the laboratory. However, because feed analysis laboratories are not required to follow this format, the lab queue display may or may not reflect this structure.

The first five columns in the lab queue are assigned by AminoCow and except for the “Delete” and “LogDate” columns, will be blank until the lab sample is used. The “Delete” column is used for removing samples from the lab queue. A value of “Yes” indicates that the feed will be deleted when exiting the “Lab Analysis Screen” or when the ‘Delete’ button is clicked. The default is “No”. The “LogDate” is the date on which the sample was imported into the lab queue. The queue is sorted by log date. The remaining three fields are only filled if the sample has been matched to an AminoCow feed. When the “Lab Analysis Screen” is exited by selecting ‘Next’, the sample feed is stamped with a “used date” and is assigned the AminoCow client code associated with the ration and the name of the AminoCow feed the sample is modifying. If you click ‘Yes’ when asked whether or not to archive a sample, the sample feed is deleted from the lab queue and moved to the archive. If you answer ‘No’, the sample remains in the queue, and will be listed only when working with the client associated with the feed and then only when the ‘View Queue’ button is clicked.

To select a sample, simply click on it. The lab header information will display in the upper frame while certain common nutrient values from the lab analysis will display underneath the AminoCow feed. If a nutrient in the grid was not included in the analysis, it will have a value of -1 or will be blank. If the sample seems to be a correct match for the AminoCow feed, click ‘Next’ to move to the next step. Otherwise you can select a different sample from the queue, or you can exit without selecting a sample by clicking ‘Cancel’ or choosing ‘Exit’ from the menu.

If you cannot find the sample you are looking for in the list of unused samples, you can click ‘View Queue’ to expand the list to include all used samples for the current client. If you suspect that the sample may be in the archive, you can click the ‘View Archived Samples’ button. This will display

all archived samples for the AminoCow client and order them by the date on which they were used.

Deleting Feeds

You can delete samples that are in the lab queue by setting the "Delete" field to "Yes". To do this, enter a 'Y' in the Delete column of the sample to be deleted. Once you have selected the samples to be deleted, you can click the 'Delete' button to complete the process. While you can mark the currently selected sample for deletion, you cannot delete it by using the 'Delete' button. Otherwise samples marked for deletion will be deleted when you exit the "Lab Analysis Screen". Samples in the archive cannot be deleted from this screen.

It is a good practice to delete all TMR's and mixes from the lab queue. If you are not interested in maintaining an archive, delete samples when you are done with them. If you have marked the current sample for deletion, it will be deleted when you exit the "Lab Analysis Screen" by clicking 'Next'.