



## NATIONAL FORAGE TESTING ASSOCIATION

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### Memorandum

Date: 26 April 2022

To: NFTA Member Labs

From: NFTA board

Re: summarization of additional analytes

The National Forage Testing Association has determined an opportunity to expand our proficiency program by adding additional analytes considered relevant to ruminant nutrition and feeding. The analytes to be added are:

- Starch
- Ash
- Neutral Detergent Fiber on an organic matter basis (aNDFom)

These new analytes are optional for reporting by member labs. The information will be provided to allow member labs to evaluate internal proficiency and provide a reference for method performance across laboratories.

This information will not be used for lab certification purposes. It is the expectation of the NFTA board that the routine reporting of this information by member labs will assist them and the industry in bringing greater consistency to the reporting of these analytes. NDFom, starch, and ash are important nutrient characterizations used in a number of modeling and ration balancing programs. These nutrient evaluations allow for greater precision in approaches to assigning estimates of forage energy.

As reference, the following methods are consistent with analysis of these analytes in forage materials. These methods are not specifically endorsed by NFTA but are offered as relevant approaches.

- **aNDFom:** Gravimetric determination of amylase-treated neutral detergent fiber in feeds with refluxing in beakers or crucibles: collaborative study. Mertens DR. JAOAC Int. 2002 Nov-Dec;85(6):1217-40.
- **Starch:** Determination of dietary starch in animal feeds and pet food by an enzymatic-colorimetric method: collaborative study. Hall, MB. J AOAC Int. Mar-Apr 2015;98(2):397-409 doi: 10.5740/joacint.15-012.
- **Ash:** Ash of Animal Feed: AOAC Official Method 942.05(1996).

Currently the calculated indexes of RFV and RFQ do not utilize aNDFom. The use of aNDFom, while a nutritionally more correct definition of neutral detergent fiber, will lead to potentially higher values.