

## Press Release

### **Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. Receives Canada's First BVD PI Prevention Claim for Vaccines**

BURLINGTON, Ont. (Sept. 25, 2007) – Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. (BICL) recently announced that it has received Canada's strongest label claim against BVD persistent infection. Express<sup>®</sup> 5, Express 5/Somnugen<sup>®</sup>, Express<sup>®</sup> 10 and Express 10/Somnugen<sup>®</sup> vaccines are now licensed to prevent persistent BVD infection, not simply aid in their prevention. They are the only vaccines sold in Canada to have received this label claim. The prevention claim assures users that these vaccines prevent the development of persistently infected (PI) calves by protecting the fetus against BVD infection during pregnancy.

“In order to achieve this claim, Boehringer Ingelheim has conducted challenge studies against several virulent non-cytopathic BVD strains, including BVD types 1a, 1b as well as 2 different strains of BVD type 2,” said Dr. Michael Witt, Business Manager for Bovine and Equine at BICL. “The requirements to achieve this claim are loftier than those required to achieve the “...aid in the prevention...” claim, demanding that high levels of protection be statistically demonstrated in studies where a high level of infection could be seen in a control group. So far, no competitive product has been able to demonstrate this level of protection to independent statisticians. Thanks to the efforts of the Boehringer Ingelheim research team, BICL can now offer the highest level of BVD PI protection available in a vaccine.”

PI calves are born infected with the BVD virus but their immune systems do not recognize it as foreign. These calves shed BVD virus for life, exposing every animal they come in contact with to BVD. The results are significant economic losses at all levels of the industry. PI calves themselves may appear healthy and normal; however, they often perform poorly and have greater susceptibility to calfhood diseases in addition to spreading BVD to in-contact animals.

In two BVD Type 1 challenge studies, BICL vaccines achieved 91 percent and 100 percent protection in challenged heifers, compared to zero percent for nonvaccinated, control animals. Three BVD Type 2 studies resulted in 100 percent, 94 percent and 95 percent protection respectively against BVD in vaccinated heifers.

While these trial results are impressive, Witt cautions that even the best vaccine may not compensate for poor management practices and notes that if you suspect BVD or BVD persistent infection in your herd you should work with your veterinarian to determine the best method for testing.

The Boehringer Ingelheim group is one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, it operates globally with 137 affiliates in 47 countries and 38,400 employees. Since it was founded in 1885, the family-owned company has been committed to researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine. Since it was founded in 1885, the family-owned company has been committed to researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine.

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