

**MEDIA RELEASE****Apiam Animal Health Limited** (ASX: AHX)**Vaccine approval provides locally manufactured solution for misunderstood cattle disease**

**Bendigo November 1st 2021** - Apiam Animal Health (ASX:AHX) is excited to announce that it has received approval for a unique vaccine to improve the health of beef feedlot cattle.

Animal Consulting Enterprises (ACE Laboratories) has received approval from regulatory body, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to manufacture (under permit) a *Histophilus somni* vaccine for cattle, sheep and goats.

Apiam acquired ACE Laboratories in December 2019 with an aim to develop and manufacture new vaccines, filling gaps in the market to improve the health of cattle, pigs, poultry and other farm animals.

This unique custom vaccine is a first for the Australian livestock industry and will assist veterinarians and livestock producers to prevent disease caused by this misunderstood pathogen, which can cause high levels of mortality and morbidity in intensively raised cattle.

Apiam's Managing Director and veterinarian, Dr Chris Richards said "It has been one of Apiam's key business goals to develop unique vaccine solutions for the pig, poultry, beef and dairy industries where commercial vaccines don't exist or are starting to fail, and demand for alternatives to traditional antibiotic use continue to grow rapidly."

Feedlot veterinarian Dr Tony Batterham has seen the effects of the *Histophilus somni* pathogen first-hand. Despite being a common bacterium that lives in the nasal cavity of cattle, some mechanisms of why it suddenly becomes an aggressive pathogen causing devastating disease and death remain unknown.

The *Histophilus somni* bacteria invade blood vessels and organs causing local vascular damage and interruption of blood supply when translocated to other sites in the body. Animals can also get septicemia (blood infections), and when the spinal cord and brain are affected, a neurological condition called thromboembolic meningoencephalitis (TEME) can occur. *Histophilus* can also infect heart muscle causing acute myocarditis and heart failure, in addition to spreading to the joints resulting in joint infections.

"I've seen a few cases where this bacterium suddenly flares up, usually when other bacteria and viruses are involved. It can mark the fact that a high level of respiratory disease is present on the feedlot, in common with *Mannhemia* or *Pasturella* bronchopneumonia complex, resulting in high morbidity and in some cases death of the animal", explained Dr Batterham. "From these initial respiratory infections, *Histophilus* can transport itself to multiple other locations and cause further debilitating disease" he added

"Stresses are known to trigger the disease which occurs most often in calves or young animals recently introduced into feedlots"

“We currently use antibiotics to treat affected animals, but with this new vaccine opportunity, we see a real opportunity to be able to reduce their use and improve antimicrobial stewardship programs, which is a key focus for our Company”.

As the veterinarian of some of Australia’s largest beef feedlots, Dr Batterham was keen to point out that although it’s not the primary cause of disease to the Australian feedlot industry, this pathogen can cause significant losses to the industry under the right circumstances.

“I see this vaccine being used in combination with existing vaccines. The excitement for me is that ACE Laboratories has also recently developed a *Pasturella* vaccine which we have been using on several feedlots. These results have been extremely promising to date and by being able to have a single vaccine against both pathogens will provide the industry with a new unique solution to address these two emerging pathogens.”

Dr Richards, was also pleased with being able to provide another vaccine solution to Australia cattle producers. “Since the acquisition of ACE Laboratories, we have now brought to market three new vaccines for cattle.”

“We have also introduced new technologies in the development of these vaccines, which will now be applied across our entire vaccine portfolio. In a step change for industry, we expect that this will result in even higher vaccine efficacy delivering better animal health outcomes.”

“Being able to develop and manufacturer these technologies locally at our Bendigo facility is what makes custom vaccines so valuable to our domestic livestock industries, especially when we are seeing antigenic drift on Australian farms as well as lack of effectiveness of some imported commercial vaccines”.

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**About Apiam Animal Health Limited**

Apiam Animal Health is positioned in the Australian market as a vertically integrated animal health company providing a range of products and veterinary services to rural and regional communities. Apiam Animal Health is committed to developing a community of healthy animals and happy people by delivering valued solutions to the communities and industries that we provide services.