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CONTACT:	Natasha Joseph	Wendy Mayo
	Merial	Bader Rutter
	(678) 638-3690	(402) 434-5307
	natasha.joseph@merial.com	wmayo@bader-rutter.com

CORID[®] (amprolium) Now Allowed in USDA Natural Beef and Never Ever 3 Programs

Prevention is key to avoid losses from coccidiosis

DULUTH, GA — June 18, 2009 — According to recently released standards by the USDA, producers raising cattle for natural and Never Ever 3 (NE3) programs can use CORID[®] (amprolium) for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis when used according to the label.^{1,2}

Dr. Joe Dedrickson, associate director, Merial Veterinary Services, says that allowing the use of coccidiostats in natural programs by the USDA reinforces the importance of preventing this costly disease.

“Cattle can’t fight coccidiosis on their own,” he says. “By adding CORID to their animal health program, natural beef and NE3 producers can help prevent coccidiosis before the damage is done, or treat it if signs of the disease are seen.”

Coccidiosis is a costly disease for several reasons. First, the disease can affect calves from all environments and geographies,³ and the prevalence of infection can be up to 100 percent in calves.⁴ Coccidiosis is a stress-induced disease that is difficult to diagnose.^{3,5} In fact, 95 percent of all cases are subclinical and are never diagnosed.⁶ If visible signs do occur, it is not until three to eight weeks after the initial infection. By then, much of the damage has already been done.⁴

"It is estimated that coccidiosis costs the cattle industries more than \$100 million every year,"⁷ Dr. Dedrickson says. "Some of those losses come from the 2 million to 3 million cattle treated for clinical coccidiosis each year — 1 in 5 of which will end up dying.⁴ Unfortunately, most of the production losses often go unnoticed."

The losses due to subclinical coccidiosis are likely higher than clinical cases because subclinical cases cannot be seen, however, the infection still causes intestinal damage.⁵ Coccidia destroy the lining of the small intestine, which results in incomplete absorption of nutrients and electrolytes.⁶ The result is dehydration and reduced feed efficiency. One study showed a 30 percent reduction in feed efficiency in animals that were infected with coccidia.⁶

"CORID works by stopping coccidia at a critical stage in the animal's small intestine to prevent more damaging clinical coccidiosis in the large intestine," Dr. Dedrickson says. "CORID is not an antibiotic, which is why it is allowed in natural and NE3 programs. Instead it works by starving the coccidia of thiamin, a nutrient that is vital to their survival."

CORID can easily be added to any animal health routine because it is available in several sizes and formulations, and offers a choice of administration routes — as a feed or water additive, or as a drench.

"CORID is a convenient option for all producers because it can easily be mixed with any type of drinking system or used as a drench," Dr. Dedrickson says. "The in-feed formulation also provides a convenient, user-friendly option as producers can mix it in with the ration or provide it as a top-dress."

Producers should consult their veterinarian and follow label instructions. For coccidiosis prevention, Dr. Dedrickson recommends producers use CORID at the prevention dose rate (5 mg/kg) for 21 consecutive days. If clinical signs of coccidiosis do occur, cattle should be treated with CORID daily for five consecutive days at the treatment dose rate (10 mg/kg) according to the label.

"Convenience and effectiveness have made CORID a leading choice in coccidiostats," Dr. Dedrickson says. "As with all operations, natural beef and NE3 programs are built on the foundation of keeping cattle healthy. Now that producers can use CORID as part of their

preventive medicine regimen, they can help cattle fight a disease that is key to their overall health and profitability.”

In addition to natural and NE3 programs, CORID is an optional protocol for the Merial® SUREHEALTH® Calf Preconditioning Program. For more information, visit www.CORID.com or call 1-888-MERIAL-1.

Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health, well-being and performance of a wide range of animals. Merial employs approximately 5,400 people and operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Its 2008 sales were over \$2.6 billion. Merial Limited is a joint venture between Merck & Co., Inc. and sanofi-aventis. For more information, please see www.merial.com.

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CORID (amprolium): Withdraw 24 hours before slaughter. Do not use in calves to be processed for veal.

¹Federal Register. Rules and regulations. 2008;73(197):59479–59482.

²Data on file at Merial.

³Kvasnicka, B. Coccidiosis in beef cattle. Cattle Producer’s Library CL685. University of Nevada Extension Beef Cattle Resource Committee.

⁴Dauguschies A, Najdrowski M. Eimeriosis in cattle: current understanding. J Vet Med B 2005;52:417-427.

⁵Jolley WR, Bardsley KD. Ruminant coccidiosis. *Veterinary Clinics Food Animal Practice*. New York: Elsevier; 2006:613-621.

⁶Quigley J. Calf Note #17 — A review of coccidiosis in calves. Available at: <http://www.calfnotes.com/pdf/CN017.pdf>. Accessed May 15, 2009.

⁷Kirkpatrick JG, et al. Coccidiosis in cattle. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Fact Sheet F-9129.

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