

Cargill Signs Exclusive Agreement To Develop, Implement Genome For Top-Quality Cattle

SAVAGE, Md. — Bringing scientific precision to the prediction of beef quality, MetaMorphix, Inc. recently announced an exclusive agreement with Caprock Cattle Feeders and Excel Corporation, both part of Cargill, Inc., to develop and implement genomic selection tools that allow cattle breeders and feedlot operators to meet consumer demands for consistency and tenderness.

MetaMorphix, a privately held life sciences company dedicated to discovering and commercializing technologies that naturally improve the food supply and human health, anticipates spending more than \$100 million during the next few years to develop a major genomic franchise in the livestock industry.

For this initial project, Caprock and Excel will provide \$10 million to MetaMorphix to support the development of innovative selection products for cattle. The tools are possible only through the use of the

newly sequenced cattle genome and its SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) maps announced June 11 by MetaMorphix and Celera Genomics.

MetaMorphix holds rights to Celera's cattle genome and map of approximately 600,000 SNPs. The sequencing of this genome and its dense map promises to produce precise selection and breeding methods in the cattle and dairy industries.

MetaMorphix's wholly owned subsidiary, MMI Genomics Inc., formed from the purchase of Celera's livestock and animal genotyping business, is specifically designed to host such animal production initiatives.

"We are excited to be part of this groundbreaking step forward for consumers and the beef industry," said Dr. Ed Quattlebaum, president, CEO and chairman of MetaMorphix.

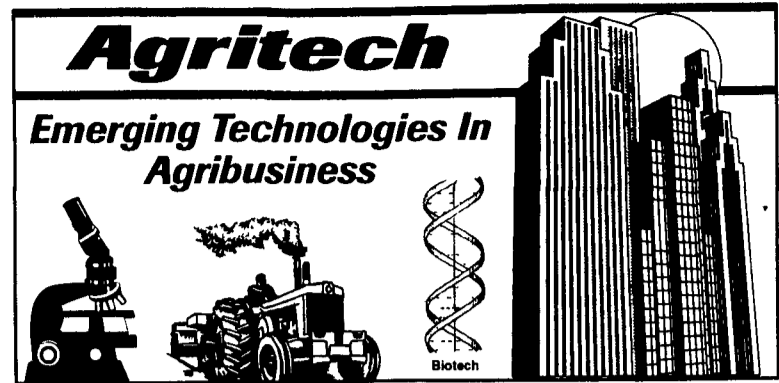
"As pioneers in animal genomics, we are happy to demonstrate how this unique technology ultimately could be applied for consumer benefit,"

Quattlebaum said.

"The beef industry has made great strides over the last decade in identifying consumer desires and sharing that information within the industry. This tool will take that information to a new level, providing a road map for the quality and consistency of individual animals," said Zay Gilbreath, president of Caprock Cattle Feeders.

"The resulting information will help ranchers, feedlot operators, and other cattle producers make more accurate business decisions," Gilbreath said. "The ultimate goal is to meet or exceed consumer expectations."

Bill Buckner, president of Excel, said, "This project is all about improving the overall quality of beef for consumers. As a beef processor, we will have a better idea of cattle quality coming into the plant so that we can direct them to the right product lines. Consumers want consistency and tenderness, and this project will be a huge leap forward in the beef industry's ongoing efforts to provide that."



Salmonella Microwell Test Receives Validation

LANSING, Mich. — Neogen's Gene-Trak Salmonella Microwell Test has received Performance Tested Method status from the Association of Official Analytical Chemists International Research Institute (AOAC-RI).

The AOAC-RI conferred its Performance Tested Method Status No. 030201 on Gene-Trak® Salmonella Microwell Test after its independent performance review. Gene-Trak Salmonella Microwell Test combines the superior specificity of DNA hybridization technology with the ability to rapidly process up to 93 samples at one time.

The test is also adaptable to automation, further shortening the hands-on time needed to process numerous samples.

This Gene-Trak test provides superior results with no more equipment or training than is required for the widely used, but less specific antibody-based microwell ELISA kits.

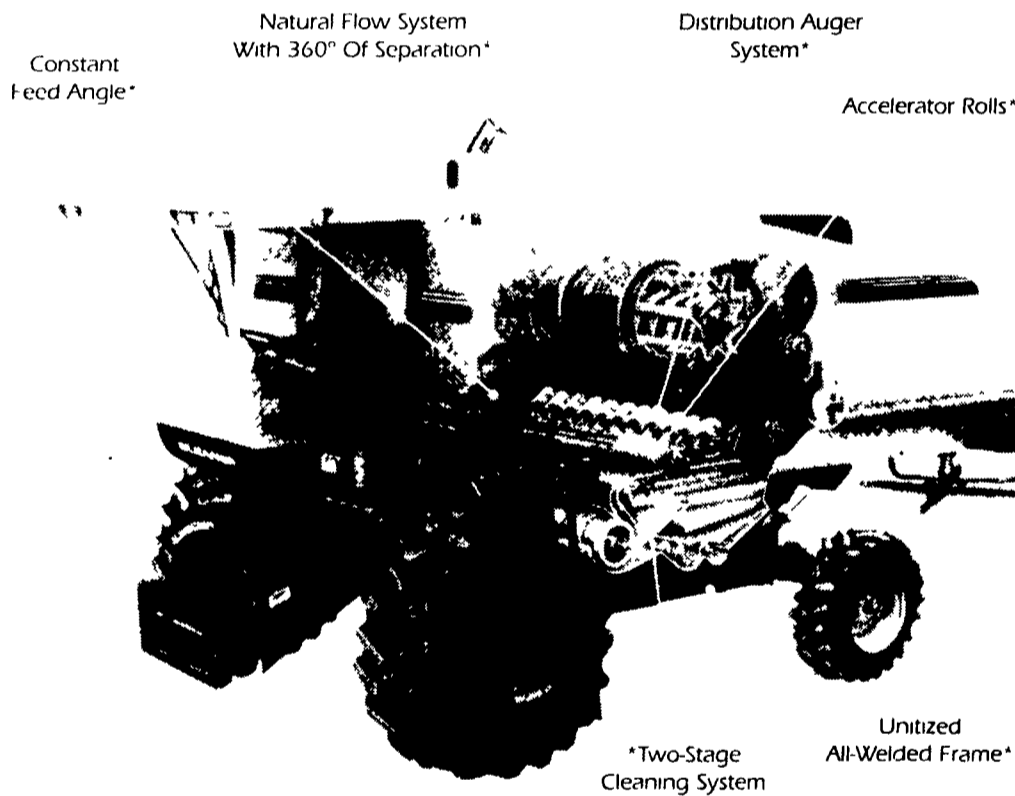
"The trend toward fewer, bigger food producers requires us to offer testing products that reflect their changing needs. The format of this kit is ideal for customers who require a high volume of sample throughput when testing for bacteria," said James Herbert, Neogen's president. "The AOAC-RI validation will allow us to build upon our success with the test kit by allowing us access to select laboratories and institutions that prefer AOAC-RI validations. Each time we receive a third party validation on any of our tests, it provides further assurance to our many customers."

A major advantage of Gene-Trak's DNA hybridization technology is its highly-specific probes, which virtually eliminate false negatives and greatly minimize the chance of receiving false positive results due to cross-reactivity with closely-related organisms. Eliminating needless confirmation effort, and cost, helps streamline a company's safety and quality processes.

This DNA hybridization test employs Salmonella-specific DNA probes directly labeled with horseradish peroxidase and a colorimetric end-point to detect as little as 1 Salmonella CFU in a 25 g food sample when the specified enrichment protocols are used.

A sample is considered negative for the presence of Salmonella spp. if the absorbance value (A_{450}) obtained is less than 0.10. A sample is considered positive for the presence of Salmonella spp. if the absorbance value obtained is greater than or equal to 0.10. Positive samples should be confirmed by standard culture procedures, followed by biochemical and serological identification.

Contact Neogen, (800) 234-5333 (U.S./Canada), (517) 372-9200, fax (517) 372-2006, or e-mail neogen-info@neogen.com. Website is www.neogen.com.



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