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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* Antibody Test Kit from VMRD**

Now Available

Pullman, Washington, December 20, 2018 — VMRD is pleased to announce the USDA approval and release of the highly anticipated *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* (MAP) Antibody Test Kit. The kit has proven to provide test results with excellent sensitivity and specificity.

“The new MAP Antibody Test Kit from VMRD is accurate, easy to use and works well on moderate to low shedders. The kit is approved for use with bovine serum samples and we anticipate bovine milk and goat serum claims soon. It will be a valuable tool in the fight to screen and assist with the eradication from bovine and goat herds” says Dr. Sampath Srikanth, Senior VP of Products for VMRD.

Disease Info: Johne’s disease is a chronic and highly contagious wasting disease of all ruminants, caused by *Mycobacterium avium* ssp. *paratuberculosis* (MAP). Major clinical signs include weight loss, pipestream diarrhea, edema, decreased milk production, and eventually death. The U.S. estimates a prevalence of approximately 70% in dairy herds and 5-10% in beef herds that costs industry up to \$250 million per year in production loss.

“Besides the USDA validation testing, VMRD has tested significant numbers of positive and negative bovine and goat samples and found that performance of the assay to be better than the currently available licensed assays*. We included a number of characterized low shedding positive samples and found our assay performs better than the currently licensed assays**” says Dr. Don Knowles, Chief Scientific Officer for VMRD.

Further kit info: The *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* Antibody Test Kit provides results for the detection of antibodies to MAP antigen in cattle. The kit format uses ready-to-use conjugate and controls with minimal sample preparation that eliminates the need for an absorption pre-incubation step. Reagents are easy to identify by color and the quick turn-around provides test results in less than 75 minutes.

Company info

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*data on file at VMRD