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PRESS RELEASE

Newport Laboratories Offers 10 Million Dose H1N1 Match Challenge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newport Laboratories Worthington, MN - Press Release
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Contact Person: Randy Simonson, COO, 800-220-2522

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WORTHINGTON, MN – Newport Laboratories is offering a 10 Million Dose H1N1 Match Challenge to provide free vaccine to pork producers by partnering with third parties such as local, state, national pork organizations, government funding and American Association of Swine Veterinarians. The match partnership would provide up to 20 million doses of a single strain swine H1N1 vaccine free to pork producers. The vaccine will be available through the pork producer's veterinarian.

10 Million Dose H1N1 Matching Plan

This is a challenge match program to encourage third parties to participate in and support this effort.

Newport will provide up to 10 million free doses based upon a dose-for-dose challenge match. Thus, up to 20 million doses may become available to the pork industry free of charge.

Research by a number of universities, the USDA National Animal Disease Center, and our own laboratory has shown that strains found in pigs that are genetically similar (but not the same) to nH1N1 have a strong potential to cross-neutralize. A vaccine can be made from these strains now.

The novel H1N1 virus does not appear to cause severe clinical signs in pigs, but there is ongoing concern regarding the potential for human-pig-human transmission – so a vaccination program may be beneficial. Vaccinating the people working with the pigs would reduce the potential for transmission in the first place, but this is slow in coming.

-More-

Newport Laboratories/add one

Newport's rationale for taking on such a project is:

1. Novel H1N1 is a human disease thrust upon the pork industry with the potential of going from humans to pigs with possible recombination back to humans. This could potentially devastate our industry – and nobody wants this to happen. We believe we have the tools available immediately to help prevent the spread from humans to pigs back to humans.
2. Production of autogenous vaccines could begin as soon as cross-neutralizing isolates are identified.
3. This program is offered to encourage the producer to vaccinate ALL of their animals (not just sows) without additional expense except labor.
4. Newport understands the negative perception that has prevailed regarding the pork industry and novel H1N1 and we feel that this type of program could help restore public confidence.

Dr. Randy Simonson, COO, Newport Laboratories, states “We will be following all appropriate USDA regulations in offering this program, and will assist attending veterinarians appropriately.”

Pork production is vitally important to the nation's rural economy. Newport wants to help with a solution by producing 10 million doses of free vaccine for this project. Please contact Dr. Randy Simonson at (800) 220-2522 or by e-mail at rsimonson@newportlabs.com.