PRESS RELEASES

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New Food Safety Technology approved by FDA

(St. Paul, Minn., January 22, 2001) - A new antimicrobial spray for the treatment of red meat carcasses has officially been introduced by Ecolab Inc., following its approval by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

Developed by Ecolab Inc., one of the world's leaders in food safety technology, the spray - Inspexx™ 200 - is used to treat red meat carcasses during processing in plants to reduce microbial contamination.

Currently in the U.S. there are several hundred facilities that, collectively, process 500,000 head of beef and swine per day. Inspexx 200 is applied to each carcass at various processing points to reduce microbial, particularly pathogenic bacteria contamination. Inspexx 200 is unique in that it can be applied at concentration levels 100 times lower than other treatments currently available. This means contamination with pathogenic bacteria including E.coli O157:H7, Salmonella and Listeria is reduced at lower chemical concentrations, providing a cost effective alternative to other treatments.

Inspexx 200, along with effective in-plant sanitation and irradiation services offered by Ecolab's strategic partner, IBA, is another line of defense against pathogens that can ultimately impact the food consumed by the public.

"Food safety is of the utmost importance to consumers, and recent news reports underscore processors' desire for improved practices combining sanitation and other intervention methods in meat and swine production," said Nick Alfano, Vice President, Food & Critical Environment Business, Ecolab Food & Beverage Division. "Inspexx 200 is a new weapon to combat pathogen contamination in red meat processing operations. The FDA's approval is a major milestone in our product development program. We have placed substantial research and development resources behind technologies that will enable food processors to operate more efficiently and produce safer, higher quality food products for the consumer."

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of critical environment sanitation systems and products for institutional, food processing and pharmaceutical markets. Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at www.ecolab.com and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

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