New Products

▶ Introducing **products, services** for cattlemen; compiled by ***Linda Robbins,*** assistant editor

Additional diagnostic tests

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) is now offering a panel for vitamin A and E using liver or serum samples. TVMDL also performs a stand-alone vitamin A test in liver or serum.

The combined Vitamin Panel can be used to quantify vitamin A and vitamin E levels in the liver or using serum. The test can be performed on bovine, canine, caprine, equine, feline, ovine, porcine and cervid species.

Tests are performed in College Station on Thursdays, with results within one to seven business days. Samples should be protected from light immediately following collection.

For more information call 979-845-3414 or visit *http://tvmdl.tamu.edu.*

Blood test for bovine TB

A new blood test to detect Mycobacteria in blood has been developed by a team at the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom (UK) led by Cath Rees, an expert in microbiology in the School of Biosciences, and Ben Swift from the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science.

The researchers have used this new method to show that cattle diagnosed with bovine tuberculosis (bTB) have detectable levels of the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) in their blood, which causes this disease.

"Evidence of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex bacteraemia in intradermal-skin-test positive cattle detected using phage-RPA" has been published online in the peer-reviewed medical journal *Virulence*.

This new, simple and inexpensive blood test detects very low levels of mycobacteria in blood using a bacteriophage-based technique developed by the University of Nottingham. The group has patented an improved version of the method that delivers results in just six hours. More recently "proof of principal" experiments have shown that this is even more sensitive. This is currently licensed to a spinout company, PBD Biotech Ltd.

Bovine TB is a zoonotic infectious disease caused by *M. bovis*. The UK has struggled to eradicate bTB and control measures continue to be a significant economic burden on the agricultural industry.

Routine testing for bovine TB uses the single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin (SICCT) skin test for *M. bovis* infection and all healthy cattle are regularly tested this way. However, it is known that this test is only 90% sensitive at best and misses many infected animals.

Difficulties in detecting, growing cultures and achieving sensitive detection using the current skin test, which looks for the animal's immune response, are a major barrier to understanding and diagnosing bTB infection. Early results indicate that *M. bovis* can be detected before the animal becomes SCCIT-positive.

Working with the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Animal Disease Center, the Nottingham group has set up the first animal trial using the blood test to detect *M. bovis* in the blood of experimentally infected animals to determine exactly how soon this test can detect infection.

Multiple dosing syringes

Destron Fearing™ has launched its new Masterline syringe line.

The new line of syringes includes the 50 milliliter (mL) Roux Revolver Syringe, 2-mL F Grip Syringe, 6-mL V Grip Syringe, the 12.5-mL V Grip Syringe and the 30-mL V Grip Drencher.

The 50-ml Roux Revolver pistol-grip syringe is designed for multiple dosing of livestock with easy dose settings. The V Grip syringes feature "dial-a-dosage" for easy settings and are adaptable to bottle and tube-feed configurations. Lastly, the F Grip is a self-filling syringe with an ergonomic design for high-volume use.

All syringes are constructed of high-quality materials and designed for long service life. They feature metal luer lock tips, easy dose adjustments, ergonomically designed handles and removable barrels for cleaning. Service kits are available for each model.

For more information about Masterline syringes, call 1-800-328-0118, email customerservice@destronfearing.com or contact your animal health supplier.

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