

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**“Preg-check and protect” critical for beef producers this fall**

Greensboro, NC (Oct. 21, 2008) – Many beef producers soon will be working with their veterinarian to pregnancy-check their late winter and spring-calving herds. This also is a good time for vaccinating cows and first-calf heifers for scours.

“Veterinarians are key resources for producers who want to get the most value from their herds,” says Doug Scholz, director of veterinary services for Novartis Animal Health. “Now is a good time for producers with late winter and spring-calving herds to contact their veterinarian to set up a preg-check appointment.”

Scholz says producers can vaccinate for scours at the same time they are running cows through the chute for preg-check. Scour Bos<sup>®</sup> 9 lets producers initiate a scours prevention up to 16 weeks prior to calving.

“Scours is the leading cause of neonatal death loss and is a common cause of production losses,” explains Scholz. “Vaccinating at preg-check is a cost effective and convenient choice for initiating a scours prevention plan.”

Another common concern for producers, especially with feed costs being high, is how to market animals found open at preg-check.

Randy Blach, executive vice president of Cattle-Fax, says the cost to carry a cow has increased more than \$100 per head in the last five years.

“Cow movement will increase seasonally from September through November and cow prices will move lower,” Blach explains. “Historically, market cow prices make an annual low between mid-November and early December when slaughter levels peak. This year is expected to follow a normal pattern.”

If that’s the case and producers have adequate feed resources, Blach says producers may want to consider carrying cows an additional 60 to 120 days in order to add weight, improve the quality and move these cows into a better market window between February and April.

“This program has added nearly \$60 per head to the bottom line for cow/calf producers during the past two decades,” says Blach.

Both Blach and Scholz emphasize the need to work with veterinarians during the current economic times.

“We’ve found time and time again that high-return producers spend as much or more on health programs versus low-return producers,” says Blach. “They just spend it more wisely. It’s all in the preventative maintenance mode.”

To find out more about “preg-check and protect,” contact Novartis at 1-800-843-3386 or visit [www.livestock.novartis.com](http://www.livestock.novartis.com).

## **About Novartis Animal Health**

Novartis Animal Health researches, develops and commercializes leading animal treatments that meet the needs of pet owners, farmers and veterinarians. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Animal Health conducts business in 40 countries and employs about 2,700 people worldwide. For more information, please consult [www.ah.novartis.us](http://www.ah.novartis.us).

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## **Novartis Animal Health Media Relations**

### **Joseph Burkett**

Novartis Animal Health Communications  
(336) 387-1006 (direct)  
(336) 209-4887 (mobile)  
[joseph.burkett@novartis.com](mailto:joseph.burkett@novartis.com)

### **Julie Groce**

Novartis Animal Health Communications  
(336) 387-1080 (direct)  
(336) 601-8079 (mobile)  
[julie.groce@novartis.com](mailto:julie.groce@novartis.com)

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