

Providing Unique Technology for Animal Health

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Guarding Against Contamination in Veterinary Biologics – Controlling the Risk

The recent PED scare in Canadian piglets has once again raised questions about the safety of all products that contain components of animal origin. This has always been a concern in the biologics industry. Manufacturers screen suppliers to ensure that the raw materials they use are sourced from healthy animals and test the final product for any extraneous microorganisms. Additional steps include sterilizing the materials prior to use in the biologic and if the material cannot be sterilized by heat or chemical treatment, it may be irradiated. All veterinary biologics manufacturers, for sale in Canada, must source their raw materials from BSE free countries and screen the suppliers for assurance that they have minimized the risk of cross contamination. Tissue culture used in the manufacturing of viral products must be screened for freedom of extraneous virus, bacteria and fungi and then certified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for use in biologic manufacturing.

At Gallant, we also must meet the CFIA requirements for veterinary biologics. We pay close attention to the country of origin and suppliers of all our raw materials and our cell line used in manufacturing autogenous Swine Influenza vaccines has been certified by CFIA. We do not use swine serum in any of our production media. All of our products are inactivated, which also minimizes the risk of spreading an infection by use of the bacterin or vaccine. Stringent biosecurity and flow management further reduces the risk of cross contamination in the lab.

All of these measures help ensure the quality and safety of the final product and reduce the risk of spreading PED, BSE and any other new virus through the use of a bacterin or vaccine.

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AASV– Dallas, Texas 2014

Jackie travelled to Dallas Texas in March to attend the AASV conference. Lovely to be south in a warmer climate but so not impressed with the freezing rain and sub-zero temperatures. A highlight of the conference is the opportunity to take the Canadian veterinary students out for supper on Saturday night.

There was much talk about PED, which was particularly pertinent to Canadian participant in the wake of the news that herds in Ontario had broken with the virus several weeks prior to the conference. Of particular interest to Gallant Labs was the session on Mycoplasma. Students, industrial partners and presenters discussed management, detection and control strategies. It appears that there is an ongoing problem, among the cases that were reported, with detection and isolation at some labs and the option to vaccinate is still fairly new.

Ontario Veterinary College Scholarship 2014

Gallant has offered a scholarship to a graduate veterinary student for 14 years and this year's recipient is Li Deng. He is a PhD candidate working with poultry viruses in the graduate degree programme at Guelph.



Swine Mycoplasma Testing and Bacterin Production

We are successfully isolating *Mycoplasma hyosynoviae* and *hyorhinis* at Gallant and able to identify by Real-Time PCR. The PCR is useful for the initial screening of multiple samples, prior to isolation. We have developed a media that produces high concentrations of organisms for bacterin manufacturing. The interest and demand for these unique products are increasing. Call us for more details.

HogJog 2014

Once again the Gallant Team "The Inoculators" turned out to support the joggers (over 450) who braved the damp weather to raise \$38,000 for Stratford's Wellspring Cancer Support Centre.

