

VitamFero announces the awarding of two key patents in the US

These property titles will protect and secure the development programs launched by VitamFero to prevent outbreaks of bovine cryptosporidiosis and neosporosis

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VitamFero, a French veterinary biotechnology company specialized in creating and developing innovative prophylactic solutions, is announcing that it has been awarded two major patents in the US for protection against bovine cryptosporidiosis and neosporosis.

These two property titles, obtained in a key territory, represent a significant step forward with the Company's development and concern:

- The **Toxo KO live attenuated strain** (US patent no. 9,585,949 held jointly by VitamFero, France's National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and Université François-Rabelais de Tours). Licensed to Bioproperties since 2015 for the development of a new ovine toxoplasmosis vaccine, the Toxo KO live attenuated strain is now also protected for prophylactic use to combat diarrheal episodes in young ruminants caused by *Cryptosporidium parvum*, an apicomplexan parasite that is phylogenetically close to *Toxoplasma gondii*, the etiological agent behind toxoplasmosis. These infections in ruminants have dramatic consequences for newborns (*i.e.* calves, lambs and goat kids), causing extremely severe dehydration and potentially death. In addition, cryptosporidiosis is a zoonosis with high levels of medical needs that are not currently covered and for which there are no preventative treatments available today.
- The **Neo KO live attenuated strain** (US patent no. 9,603,914 held exclusively by VitamFero) used as a bovine neosporosis vaccine. For reference, following the withdrawal of Bovilis NeoGuard® (MSD Animal Health), there is no longer any vaccine against this pathology available on the market. Caused by the apicomplexan parasite *Neospora caninum*, when it occurs in livestock, neosporosis results in high levels of abortions and stillbirths.

With the Company looking to establish licensing, co-development and distribution agreements shortly with various industrial partners, these patents have not only further strengthened the Company's intellectual property, but also confirm the value of the prophylactic approach developed by VitamFero.

Dr Sophie Barreteau, VitamFero Research Director: *"We are particularly pleased to have been awarded these property titles in the US. They follow all the work accomplished by VitamFero on bovine cryptosporidiosis and neosporosis, two parasitoses whose prevention represents a major medical need that is not currently covered. With support from industrial partners, who will be responsible for their marketing, we aim to continue moving forward with the development of our products"*.

About VitamFero

Founded in 2005, VitamFero is capitalizing on a strongly-growing intellectual property portfolio, covering the prophylactic development and use of live attenuated strains with major technological and commercial potential, achieved through genetic engineering with a high entry barrier and derived from the apicomplexan parasites *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Neospora caninum*. Supported initially by Val de France Angels, then by CapDecisif Management and G1J Ile-de-France since 2011, and by GO Capital, Pradeyrol Développement and CAPAGRO since 2014, VitamFero is able to count on a sound, fully-validated technology that will enable it to offer its first vaccines and immunostimulants by 2020. Learn more at www.vitamfero.com.

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