NEWS RELEASE

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JBS United Announces Launch of OptiPhos™

The Next-Generation Phytase Enzyme for Phosphorus Digestion

SHERIDAN, Ind., March 13, 2006 – A new, next-generation phytase product is helping pork and poultry producers better address the challenges of managing diet quality, diet cost and animal waste by further improving their animals' utilization of phosphorous.

The new product, OptiPhos™, from Sheridan, Ind.-based JBS United, represents the latest in phytase research and technology.

"Of course, phytase products are already used by many pork and poultry operations," said Douglas Webel, Ph.D., Vice President at JBS United. "But what we've introduced in OptiPhos represents a much more advanced phytase enzyme. It's unique in that it is most active at pH levels common in the animal's upper digestive tract, where phytate – or grain-based – phosphorous digestion is greatest."

The patented product is also resistant to pepsin, the primary digestive enzyme in the stomach. These qualities, according to Dr. Webel, enable the product to release significantly more phosphorous from feed grain per quantity of phytase input than any other competing product available on the market today.

"Our research, much of which was conducted in conjunction with leading universities, shows that OptiPhos releases approximately two times more of the amount of phosphorous found in feed grains for the pig and three times more for poultry as compared to first-generation phytase products," said Dr. Webel.

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Only 20-30 percent of phosphorous in grain-based feeds is available to the animal in meeting its nutritional needs. The remaining 70-80 percent of grain-based phosphorous is not digested by animals and is passed along as waste. In order to supply animals with the proper amount of phosphorous, producers have traditionally supplemented diets with more easily digested, inorganic forms of the mineral such as dicalcium phosphate.

Phytase enzymes work by better enabling animals to digest phosphorous that is naturally present in feed grains, such as corn and soybeans. Through the use of OptiPhos, producers can substantially enhance their animals' diet by better utilizing the phosphorus present in feed grain, thereby reducing the use and expense of inorganic phosphorus supplements.

OptiPhos also significantly reduces phosphorus levels in manure and litter, which allows producers to better manage the environmental impacts of using manure or litter as a fertilizer. Reduced levels of phosphorous in animal waste extends the number of years producers can apply manure or litter to farmland, reduces the amount of land required for safe manure/litter application and reduces the overall risk of adverse environmental impacts.

"Producers realize the importance of environmental stewardship and the risks associated with irresponsible handling of animal waste," said Kari Keller-Steele, Environmental Director for JBS United. "Less phosphorous in animal waste helps prevent an excess of phosphorous in our waterways from run-off and erosion, which can lead to excessive plant growth in water and poorer water quality overall."

OptiPhos is the only FDA-approved phytase product developed and offered for sale by an American company.

About JBS United

Since its founding in 1956, JBS United has been dedicated to providing research-based solutions to enhance animal nutrition and livestock production profitability.

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