

## Largest cattle DNA traceability study ever conducted has been completed



"These carcasses look all the same EUROFINS-TAG® shows that they are all different and unique".

Last December 7th, The French Région Pays de la Loire announced the results of its DNA traceability project in the West of France on a total of 14,000 cows. The study was particularly justified in light of the crises that have shaken the food industry over the last few years, not only BSE, but also dioxin contamination and listeriosis. This has led to stronger consumer awareness in two main areas:

- an increased need for safer food products
- a demand for more information about the sources of food as well as the production process, especially for beef products.

This genotyping project, jointly conducted by Pays de la Loire, Bovi Loire and EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC started in March 2001. In a first stage the concept of EUROFINS-TAG® was validated, including dedicated logistics for sample collection, bar code identification, analysis of DNA fingerprints and database administration. The samples were sent to the Nantes biotech lab of EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC and subsequently analysed to trace back their identity and origin. The

concept proved to be feasible and applicable on a large scale. In the second phase EUROFINS-TAG® was applied to a large number of cows in various sites in the region.

Xavier Charlot, President of Bovi Loire explained: "The experiment demonstrated the use of genotyping as a control tool and its perfect complementarity to the current procedures. These are based on an organisational and paper traceability system that identifies all French cows from birth."

The result of this project was that all DNA tests were able to identify genetically the animal of origin. EUROFINS-TAG® demonstrated an excellent correlation between DNA traceability and the paper traceability of abattoirs.

"In my view we have set new standards not only in France, but across Europe. This has been driven by consumers' expectations of transparency in existing traceability systems" remarked François Fillon, Président of the Pays de la Loire Regional Council.

For Dr. Gilles Martin, CEO of EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC: "I believe this is the largest pilot project ever conducted to collect DNA fingerprints of cattle in Continental Europe. I am proud that our company has proven that we are able to process such a massive number of samples and to contribute to highlighting the meat industry's quality and transparency efforts" ●

*Hélène Pfitzinger*

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## Sixth International FASIS Symposium Food Authenticity and Safety

More than 300 participants from 25 different countries in Europe, America and Asia, attended the last FASIS conference organised by EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC in Nantes (France), on the 28, 29 and 30 November, 2001.

Representatives from the food industry, the retail sector, and also from government bodies, research institutes and consumer associations, were there confirming the importance of the topics dealt with - origin, traceability, authenticity and safety - for all actors involved in the food business.

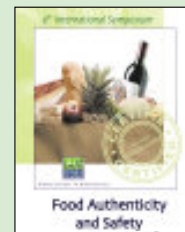
Over 3 days, 34 speakers and 41 posters presented some of the latest developments in food analysis, taking into account consumers' expectations regarding food authenticity and safety.

For more information on this event, a special issue of the EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC Newsletter has been totally dedicated to the sixth International FASIS symposium.

**Dates to note in your diary – 7<sup>th</sup> FASIS will be held on the 15, 16 and 17 October, 2003 ! ●**

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