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**METAMORPHIX LICENSES ITS DNA-BASED MARKER TECHNOLOGY TO BEEFTEK**

**BeefTek to Incorporate MetaMorphix's Predictive DNA-based Markers in their Integrated Beef Production System**

**BELTSVILLE, MD and HOUSTON, TX – November 20, 2009** – MetaMorphix, Inc. (MMI) and BeefTek today announced that MMI has granted BeefTek an exclusive license to use its predictive markers in an integrated beef production system. The financial details of the agreement have not been disclosed.

BeefTek is developing an integrated beef production system that it expects will provide high quality beef with improved production economics. BeefTek's production system will initially employ MMI's predictive markers to select cattle that have a high potential for marbling which is the primary factor used by the USDA to determine beef quality. "The beef cattle industry has historically had difficulty meeting consumer demand for high quality beef," said John Lamar, Chairman and CEO of BeefTek. "Using MetaMorphix's genetic markers, which have accurately predicted marbling in studies on several hundred thousand head of cattle, we expect our unique production system will provide a consistent, reliable source of the highest quality beef products."

BeefTek will select cattle using MMI's predictive markers for marbling. Selected cattle will be managed in a system designed specifically to produce high quality beef. BeefTek expects to market the output from this production system to processors and retail distributors that specialize in the high quality beef segment.

MetaMorphix President and CEO, Dr. Edwin Quattlebaum, said, "As virtually all of our marbling test revenues have come from the cattle feedlot sector, we are very pleased to see the use of this test move into an entirely new cattle market segment. Additionally, we are also excited with the prospect of BeefTek expanding their use of genetic tests beyond marbling, testing cattle for traits that will improve production efficiency." MMI expects to begin processing samples from BeefTek before the end of the year at its lab facilities in Davis, CA.

### **About MetaMorphix, Inc.**

MetaMorphix, Inc. is a life sciences company dedicated to discovering and commercializing multiple technology platforms to improve human and animal health. The company and its corporate partners are developing products to substantially increase livestock quality and production efficiency, to improve companion animal health, and to treat human muscle degenerative diseases and metabolic disorders utilizing MetaMorphix's animal genomics and growth and differentiation factors (GDFs) technologies. MetaMorphix was founded in 1994; it has headquarters in Beltsville, MD, and lab facilities in Davis, CA.

*MetaMorphix safe harbor: Certain statements in this press release are forward-looking. These may be identified by the use of forward-looking words or phrases such as "believe," "expect," "intend," "anticipate," "should," "planned," "estimated," and "potential," among others. These forward-looking statements are based on MetaMorphix Inc.'s current expectations. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "safe harbor" for such forward-looking statements. In order to comply with the terms of the safe harbor, MetaMorphix Inc. notes that a variety of factors could cause actual results and experience to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties that may affect the operations, performance, development, and results of MetaMorphix Inc.'s business include but are not limited to; (1) unproven use of scientific information to develop or commercialize products; and (2) other factors that might be described from time to time in MetaMorphix Inc.'s business plan and regulatory filings.*