

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **December 22, 2004 - Ventria Bioscience Initiates Seventh Straight Year of Production**

#### ***Plant-Made Pharmaceutical Company Developing Health Solutions for the Global Community***

Maryville, MO – Ventria Bioscience has submitted its 2005 production permit application to the United States Department of Agriculture, thus initiating the company's seventh straight year of production and development of products, including an improved oral rehydration solution that incorporates two of Ventria's proteins. Oral rehydration solutions are administered to children with acute diarrhea, which claims the lives of 1.3 million children annually.

Ventria has received approval from the USDA every year since 1999 to produce crops for plant-made pharmaceuticals. The 2005 permits would authorize production in Cape Girardeau, Scott and Mississippi counties in Missouri. In November the company announced plans to move its operations to Missouri in order to take advantage of a partnership with Northwest Missouri State University.

"Ventria is dedicated to leading the development of plant-made pharmaceuticals that promise affordable human health products for the global community," said Scott Deeter, President and CEO of Ventria Bioscience. "We are committed to product quality and best practices that will set the industry standard. Ventria's permits, which are submitted according to federal regulation as a normal part of our operations, describe the production practices to be followed during the company's production operations" he continued.

In order to maintain product quality and as part of Ventria's commitment to sound stewardship, Ventria has instituted the following production practices:

- Ventria's field production is separated from the nearest commodity rice or barley production by more than five miles;
- Ventria's products are manufactured within the seed of self-pollinating rice or barley, which are not wind or insect pollinated plants;
- Ventria's field production, storage, grinding and transportation equipment is dedicated only to Ventria's use and is not used for any commodity rice or barley production.
- Ventria's contractors and field production personnel receive extensive training related to regulatory requirements and Ventria's standard operating procedures.
- Ventria monitors its production practices for compliance and performs frequent audits of its operations.

“Ventria’s track record of working with the USDA is impeccable,” said State Sen. David Klindt, R-12<sup>th</sup> District, chairman of the Missouri Senate agriculture committee. “They have proven year after year that they understand the importance of working with the USDA to assure regulatory compliance and industry best practices.”

Klindt pointed to the company’s record of success in achieving USDA permits and having passed every inspection over the past six years, including eight inspections during its 2004 production season in California and Iowa. “Ventria certainly adds to Missouri’s economic development success in attracting leading life science research and companies to the state,” said Klindt.

Ventria Bioscience is committed to developing affordable human health products that enhance and save lives. Ventria’s proteins and peptides are manufactured in the seed of self-pollinating plants using ExpressTec, a proprietary technology that has achieved unrivaled efficiency for the production of proteins and peptides for human and animal health products.

For more information, see our website at Ventria Bioscience  
<http://www.ventria.com>

Or contact:

Brandy Sargent, Corporate Communications  
[BSargent@Ventria.com](mailto:BSargent@Ventria.com)  
(916) 921-6148

State Sen. David Klindt  
(573) 751-1415