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## **MetaFarms Announces Strategic Business Alliance with Signature Farms**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN, December 3, 2003** — MetaFarms, a leading out-sourced provider delivering information technology services to the livestock industry, has announced today the signing of a strategic business relationship with Signature Farms, a division of United Feeds Inc. and, with operations in Indiana, Illinois Michigan, Missouri, and Iowa. Under the terms of the agreement, Signature Farms will:

1. Contribute intellectual property to the design of i-Production, MetaFarms' ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software solution for the livestock industry.
2. Provide funding to develop the Sow Farm Manager module.
3. Implement the full ERP solution as each module becomes available.
4. Become a primary sales agent for i-Production to the largest pork producers in North America.
5. Become a training center for MetaFarms applications and services.
6. Provide post-implementation consulting to help customers extract full value from the solution.

"We are looking forward to a deeper and more strategic relationship with Signature Farms," said Dr. Tom Stein, MetaFarms' CEO. "They have been a key customer over the past two years, and in fact were our first large pork producer customer for the early version of our ERP software. They have been evangelists for us ever since, and I'm happy to make our evolving relationship more formal."

"This relationship with Signature Farms gives us a real-life laboratory for our software design and development activities as we build out the full ERP solution. This is especially important now as we automate complex business processes such as feed ordering, transport scheduling, pig flow, forecasting, and logistics as well as build tight data connections with suppliers such as feed and genetics companies and packer-processor customers such as Tyson, Hormel, Swift, and Excel. "

"I'm very excited about the fact that Signature will become a showplace for our software and a key reference customer. They will host customer prospect visits to see the software in action. Most important, they have the skills, talent, and leadership to help other customers – and the entire industry – get full value from our software."

"I am excited to be part of the MetaFarms team" said John Corya MetaFarms coordinator for United Feeds, "every one at Signature Farms and United Feeds has seen the value of real time information that can be accessed via internet. The powerful tools developed by MetaFarms have truly added significant value to our bottom line. Having the opportunity to assist in the further development of the MetaFarms solutions and to participate in sales and adoption in the industry will be a very rewarding challenge.

"It is exciting to be a part of MetaFarms and their advanced technology. We believe this is the next step in information control and management." said John Swisher, United Feeds Chairman.

United Feeds Inc is a privately held nutrition and technology company with operations in North America and Asia. As a life sciences company with focus on technologies for food animal production the association with MetaFarms fits very well with their vision for delivering scientific solutions and proprietary products to a rapidly changing industry. [www.unitedfeeds.com](http://www.unitedfeeds.com)

Signature Farms, a division of United Feeds Inc., is a production, management and consulting company based in Sheridan, Indiana with a branch office in Greensburg, Indiana.

MetaFarms is a leading out-sourced provider delivering information technology services to the livestock industry, including IT consulting, enterprise applications and technical content. MetaFarms' solutions enable producers to more effectively manage their businesses by reducing costs, enhancing yields, improving margins and monitoring animal health more efficiently.

For further information on MetaFarms, visit their web site at [www.metafarms.com](http://www.metafarms.com). To see MetaFarms' hosted knowledge management solutions for the livestock industry, [visit www.porknet.com](http://www.porknet.com), [www.beefdaily.com](http://www.beefdaily.com) and [www.dairydaily.com](http://www.dairydaily.com).

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