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What is claimed:

1. A method of producing phytase in yeast, the method comprising:

providing a polynucleotide encoding a phytase from *Escherichia coli;*

expressing the polynucleotide in a yeast; and

isolating the expressed protein or polypeptide,

wherein said protein or polypeptide catalyzes the release of phosphate from phytate.

2. The method of claim **1** wherein said polynucleotide encodes *E. coli* AppA phytase.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein said yeast is a *Pichia* species.

4. The method of claim **1** wherein said polynucleotide is carried on a nucleic acid vector.

* * * * *