



2013-05-17-040 CGNI minireviews on mycobacteria (11) Assessment of Paratuberculosis in the Food Chain (TAFS forum, March 2013)

To: (01) Public health and One Health Initiative; (03) Food-borne, water-borne and air-borne diseases; (04) Mycobacterial diseases; (07) Zoonoses, general; (12) Scientific Information, research and education;  
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CGN minireviews on mycobacteria as a public health risk

A new series, aimed at stimulating discussion on published literature dealing with the threat to public health posed by mycobacteria. Although some information of global significance has been known for decades, the risk remains underestimated.

Issued by the [Reference Laboratory for Paratuberculosis and Avian Tuberculosis](#) of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and [Biomedical Technology, Epidemiology and Food Safety Global Network](#) operating in the Veterinary Research Institute, Brno, Czech Republic

We believe in the [One Health Initiative](#)

### (11) [Assessment of Paratuberculosis in the Food Chain](#) (TAFS forum, March 2013)

The [TAFS forum](#) has published its "[Assessment of Paratuberculosis in the Food Chain](#)" presentation, as a [Youtube-Video and pdf for download](#).

The assessment is the product of extensive consensus building among TAFS members. It concludes that

- Several reasons warrant enhanced efforts to control paratuberculosis, including animal health, welfare, economics and trade.
- The best option to control paratuberculosis in animals is control on farm.
- Reducing exposure of humans to MAP should not be seen as the ultimate reason to control paratuberculosis in animals, but as an additional benefit without harm.
- Current scientific evidence on the human health aspect of paratuberculosis is unclear and implications are discussed controversially. Future science may or may not remove that uncertainty in either direction.

The assessment will be the basis for future refined recommendations for all stakeholders along the food chain how to address the problem.

Comments by the CGN Editor:

Most conclusions of this TAFS Assessment are greatly appreciated. CGNI readers can comment themselves what seems to weaken the position. Please share your comments, opinions or suggestions.

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