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Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute Schweizerisches Tropen- und Public Health-Institut Institut Tropical et de Santé Publique Suisse

# Why One Health makes sense

Cases by year: 2007: 185 2008: 1000 2009: 2361 Reported 250 cases 200 150 100 50

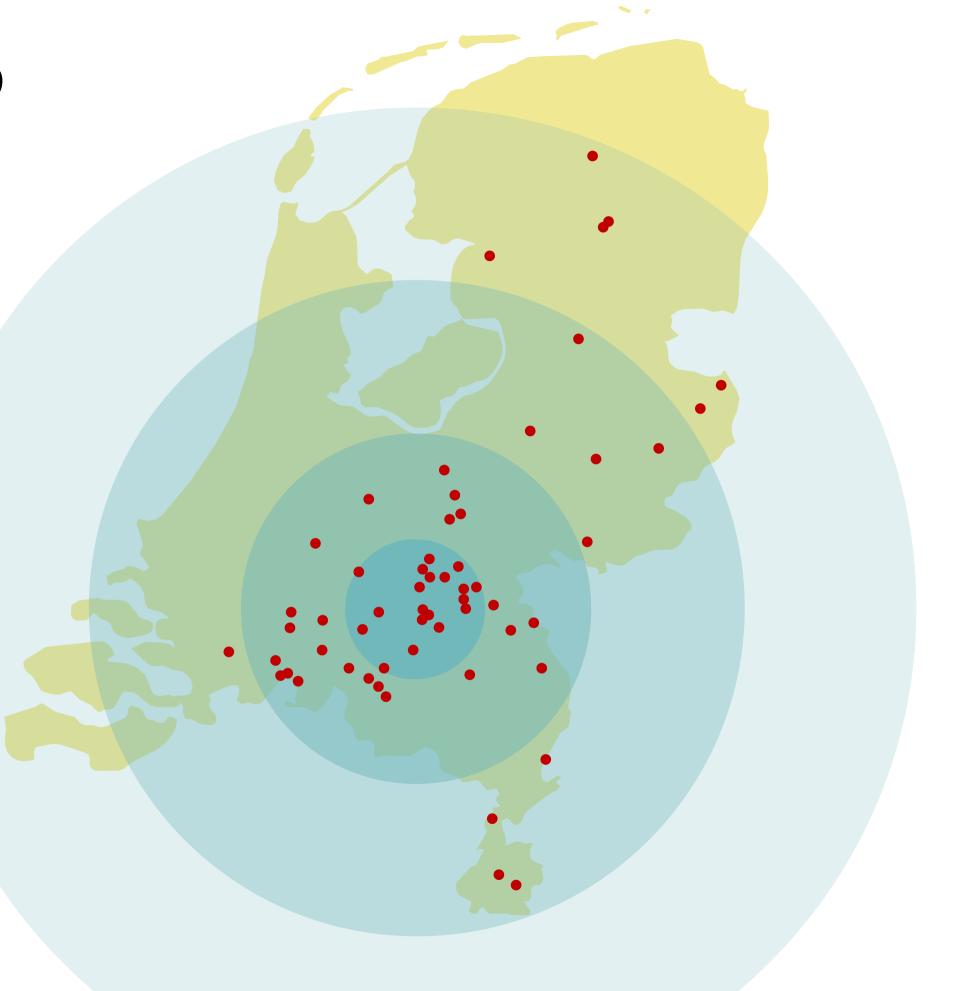
2008

2009

2007

Q fever in 2009

The Netherlands



# **Science** | Vol 327 | 15 January 2010 | <u>www.sciencemag.org</u> *Published by AAAS*



#### **NEWSFOCUS**

Rising

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

# Questions Abound in Q-Fever Explosion in the Netherlands

A burgeoning goat-farm sector appears to be behind the worst outbreak ever recorded of a rare zoonosis

VINKEL, NETHERLANDS—Jan van Lokven has been a goat farmer for 23 years, but he's about to lose half his livelihood. Later this month, government officials will show up at his barn to kill all of his pregnant goats—more

isn't that the goats are suffering; it's that they are microbiological time bombs that threaten human health.

Q fever causes little disease in animals, and most farmers don't see it as a problem. But it

**University of Basel** 







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**MEDICINE** 

# Initiative Aims to Merge Animal and Human Health Science to Benefit Both

Medical and veterinary science are like siblings who have grown apart. But now, there's a flurry of efforts to reunite them. Proponents of this idea, called "one medicine" or "one health," say that breaking down the walls between the two fields will help fight diseases that jump from animals to humans,

such as SARS and avian influenza, and advance both human and animal health.

In April, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) decided to establish a 12-member task force to recommend ways in which vets can collaborate with colleagues in human medicine. In late June, the house of delegates of the American Medical Associa-

rural areas, versus more than 140, mostly urban-based, schools of medicine.

The benefits of collaboration could go beyond zoonoses, says Jakob Zinsstag of the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel. For instance, in Chad, Zinsstag has helped introduce joint vaccination cam-

> paigns for livestock and humans, which has helped raise vaccination rates of

> > hard-to-reach nomadic populations. In the United Kingdom,

It's all connected.
Human and animal
medicine should grow
closer together, One
Health supporters say.

the Comparative Clinical Science Foundation has announced plans to fund cross-

#### SCIENCE **SCOPE**

## Hubble Due for Fall 2008 Makeover

It's official: In 15 months, NASA will send a space shuttle to service the aging Hubble Space Telescope. Plans to return to Hubble were put on hold 4 years ago after Columbia disintegrated. NASA chief Michael Griffin pledged last year to reverse his predecessor's decision to let Hubble die, but the space agency waited until Atlantis lifted off from its Florida launch pad last week to put the 10 September 2008 servicing flight on the busy shuttle schedule.

If the maintenance mission—its fifth—is successful, Hubble will sport two new instruments. The Cosmic Origins Spectrograph and Wide Field Camera 3 will, respectively, measure the structure and composition of matter and examine the universe in multiple wavelengths. By replacing gyroscopes and filling the fuel tank, the mission is also expected to extend the life of the telescope, first launched in 1990, to 2013. That's also when NASA intends to launch its James Webb Space Telescope, Hubble's follow-on.

—ANDREW LAWLER

#### Peer Review Peered At. Reviewed

## One Health

- Added value in terms of human and animal health and financial savings or environmental services.
- Added value is achieved by the cooperation of human and veterinary medicine.
- The added value becomes apparent when the result is compared to the situation if the medicines are working separately.