

**Advice 14-2013 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on a Royal Decree aiming at the prevention of human infection with *Coxiella burnetii* from bovine, ovine and caprine farms**

The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate a project of Royal Decree aiming at the prevention of human infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever) from bovine, ovine and caprine farms.

The Scientific Committee recommends to use a uniform and as large as possible definition of the term « abortion » in order to take all the diseases into account for which is searched for in the differential diagnosis of abortion in the context of the execution of the abortion protocol.

The Committee agrees with the fact that bovine farms have a lower public health risk than small ruminant farms, but it still draws the attention to the fact that this risk is not negligible, especially in case of abortion due to *Coxiella Burnetii*.

Concerning public farms (educational farms, farm tourism, parks, zoos, etc.), the Scientific Committee refers to the measures recommended in the advices 24-2010 (ovine and caprine farms) and 25-2010 (bovine farms). These public farms can hold sheep, goats and cows or other animal species susceptible to *Coxiella burnetii*. They must be considered, especially in case of abortion, as farms with high risk of transmitting airborne infection to humans (visitors, auxiliary nursing staff, ...), due to the nature of the contacts between these persons and the animals. In these farms contaminated by *Coxiella burnetii*, it is recommended to forbid immediately the contact between the public and the pregnant or aborted animals or the animals having given birth, and to mandatory vaccinate the animals kept for breeding. In non contaminated farms, a mandatory preventive vaccination of the animals kept for breeding is recommended.

The Scientific Committee agrees with the project of Royal decree at the condition that the formulated recommendations are taken into consideration.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section “Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen” and “Comité scientifique/Avis”.