



Mycobacterium bovis Infection in Animals and Humans, 2nd Edition

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BOOK REVIEWS

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***Mycobacterium bovis* Infection in Animals and Humans, 2nd Edition.** By C. O. Thoen, J. H. Steele, and M. F. Gilsdorf, Blackwell Publishing, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50014, USA. 2006. 329 pp. ISBN 978-0-8138-0919-9. US \$124.99 (hardback).

Review by Paul L. Barrows

A dozen years have elapsed since publication of the first edition of *Mycobacterium bovis* Infection in Animals and Humans. During that time Wildlife Disease Association membership and activities have undergone significant changes, and significant progress has been made internationally on this disease. Similarly, mycobacterial infections, and more specifically *M. bovis* infections, among livestock, wildlife, and humans continue to reflect the international significance of this important pathogen.

In clear and concise fashion, the editors and contributors to the second edition have broadly updated the status of bovine tuberculosis as it has impacted, and is impacting, domestic livestock, wildlife, and human health within countries throughout most regions of the world. With a blending of input from 56 contributors representing 17 countries, the reader is presented with updated discussions focusing on pathogenesis, epidemiology, diagnostics, therapeutics, health implications, and economic impacts resulting from *M. bovis* infections. These topics of discussion are dispersed among the book's 29 chapters and, in many cases, are presented in association with specific outbreaks, situations, or case histories as they have occurred within various countries throughout the world.

Although not in specific order, individual chapters address *M. bovis*-associated infections and outbreaks involving farmed deer in Sweden and wild swine in Italy and the impacts of wildlife reservoirs in Great

Britain, Ireland, Canada, and the United States on control programs. Consistent with the "international scope" of this text, the current status of bovine tuberculosis in Germany, Central Europe, Russia and the former states of the Soviet Union, India, the African continent broadly (and South Africa specifically), portions of Latin America and the Caribbean, and China is also presented in dedicated chapters. Incidence of *M. bovis* in nonhuman primates and that in pinnipeds are separately addressed in latter portions of this book.

Recognizing the tremendous progress made over the past decade in the fields of molecular biology, genomics, and other areas of science, the chapter discussions relating to diagnostic tests, molecular techniques, polymerase chain reaction detection, and DNA vaccines against tuberculosis add to an understanding of the complexity and challenges associated with worldwide control efforts of this disease.

As stated in the Preface of this second edition, the purpose of the text is to provide medical professionals, allied health scientists, research workers, diagnosticians, and graduate students with current information on the significance of *M. bovis* in the control and eradication of tuberculosis in animals and humans. The editors are to be lauded for bringing together contributors from around the world to elucidate the current status of *M. bovis* infections in animals and humans. The Wildlife Disease Association's broadly international membership and readership are ideally suited to benefit from this updated and highly readable contribution to the current literature on *M. bovis*.

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