Reviewer’s report

Title: Farming, Q fever and public health: agricultural practices and beyond

Version: 0 Date: 25 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Katja Mertens

Reviewer's report:

The authors state, that Coxiella burnetii can function as a model organisms to better understand dynamics of outbreaks/epidemics. Factors contributing in spreading of Cb are manifold from environmental conditions, farming/housing conditions, surveillance and governmental policies. Strict rules have to be implemented to register early signs and to prevent epidemics.

Minor comments:

English needs to be corrected. Some sentences are too long and hard to understand.

Page 8: The authors state, that at least six animals (cattle) that have aborted should be tested. Later for small ruminants two to six animals. Please clarify, same for serological testing. The number of animals to be tested depends on the size of the herd/flok and the prevalence of Cb within the region.

Page 3, Line 45-46: 1 bacterium is the infective dose via the aerosolic route

Line 48: Please clarify the term "assist to abortion storm".

Page 4, Line 4: Do you mean that after large state owned animal facilities and cooperatives for cattle and sheep were closed down, farmers switched to goat farming, which coincided with an increase in human Q fever cases? Please clarify.

Page 4, Line 16: Do you mean the animals are passing through villages and small towns on a daily basis to reach the pastures? Please clarify.

Line 33: Please clarify "high propagation of the bacteria in the environment"

Line 52-56: Do you mean the receiving herd =buying herd is at high risk of an infection? Please clarify.

Line 60: wet or soaking wet/drenched

Page 6 line 4: see above

Line 48: avirulent in a rodent infection model (Andoh 2005; Moos Hackstadt 1987)
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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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