CRISPR could help combat bovine tuberculosis—disease that costs farmers $3 billion annually

Recombinetics announced [October 16] the launch of TARGET-TB, a tripartite collaborative research project with University College Dublin in the Republic of Ireland and Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland to combat Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis) infection, the pathogen that causes bovine tuberculosis (BTB). BTB is a global threat to animal and human health and a major challenge to sustainable beef and dairy farming.

Annually, M. bovis creates an estimated $3 billion in global losses to agriculture. It disrupts trade, reduces animal productivity, causes the need for the mass slaughter of animals to control the spread of the pathogen, decimates the operations of small-holder farmers, and poses a significant zoonotic threat to public health, particularly for farmers and communities in the developing world.

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The goals of TARGET-TB are to offer precision breeding solutions to improve existing BTB controls without the need for additional antibiotics or ineffective vaccines, to reduce the zoonotic threat to public health associated with BTB, and to reduce the financial burden of BTB prevention and intervention.

Read full, original article: [Recombinetics Launches TARGET-TB with Researchers in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to Develop Genome Editing Solutions for Bovine Tuberculosis](#)