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Cover photograph (Copyright © 2010, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.): Composite of a repeated motif showing two typical “fried egg”-shaped colonies of *Mycoplasma agalactiae* mutants grown on standard SP-4 medium containing X-Gal: a colony expressing the *lacZ* gene of *E. coli* (blue) in comparison to a colony lacking the *lacZ* gene (white). The *lacZ* gene was introduced into *M. agalactiae* by random transposition using the staphylococcal transposon Tn4001. Based on the *lacZ* reporter system, a new DNA excision assay was developed to demonstrate that Xer1 recombinase-mediated excisions can occur in wild-type *M. agalactiae* but not in *xer1*-disrupted Vpma phase-locked mutants, which lack Xer1 recombinase. (See related article on page 4462.)