

## TRICHOMONIASIS

Several cattlemen met yesterday (March 22) at the USU corrals at 1200 West 1500 North in Logan to have their beef bulls semen and trich tested by a certified veterinarian. For those who may not have been aware, we will repeat the process at the same location on Tuesday, April 12 between 9 a.m. and noon. Cost is \$60.00 per head, first come, first served. It would be helpful if you contact the Extension office (752-6263) so we can plan on the number of bulls to be tested. Trichomoniasis is a highly contagious sexually transmitted disease in cattle that results in abortions and infertility. The only way to confirm the trichomoniasis infection is by testing with a procedure approved by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

Utah Administrative Code, Rule R58-21, outlines the details of trichomoniasis testing. All bulls twelve months of age and older, regardless of ownership or change of ownership, must be tested by an accredited veterinarian with an approved test for trichomoniasis. This test must be performed annually, between October 1 and April 30, or prior to exposure to female cattle. All bulls must be classified as a negative bull prior to exposure to female cattle or offered for sale. All Utah bulls that are tested, shall be tagged in the right ear with an official trich tag by the certified veterinarian performing the test. Bulls which bear a current trichomoniasis test tag from another state which has an official trichomoniasis testing program, will be acceptable to the State of Utah providing they meet all Utah regulations. Bulls kept in confinement operations, going direct to slaughter, or to a qualified feedlot are exempt. Rodeo bulls and bulls attending livestock shows are also exempt, unless they have access to grazing or are exposed to female cattle.

The disease is spread throughout the herd when infected bulls mate with multiple cows. Infected bulls and cows typically act and look normal. Usually, cattle producers become aware of a problem when cows are pregnancy checked and there are too many open cows, a prolonged calving period, or noticeably reduced calf crop. Abortion or re-absorption of the fetus usually occurs early in pregnancy and cows become temporarily infertile. Late term abortions have been reported, but are not common.

Although bulls usually pick up trichomoniasis from infected cows, Utah trich regulations center on bulls. Bulls act as a reservoir for this organism and are the primary method of transmission. The most effective way to control trichomoniasis is to prevent the introduction of the organism into a herd. This is primarily accomplished by testing all bulls prior to the beginning of the breeding season. Identification of infected bulls is critical. Artificial insemination of cows is another way of preventing the disease from entering the breeding herd.

Within 48 hours, the certified veterinarian performing the test must report to the owner and to the State Veterinarian any bulls testing positive for trichomoniasis. Following such notification the owner then has no more than ten days to notify the administrators of any common grazing allotment and any neighboring cattle producer. All trich positive bulls must be sent by direct movement (within 14 days) to slaughter, a qualified feedlot for feeding and slaughter, or to an approved auction market for sale to one of the above facilities. Such bulls must move only when accompanied by a VS 1-27 Form issued by the testing veterinarian or other regulatory official. Positive bulls entering a qualified feedlot, or approved

auction market shall be identified with a lazy V brand on the left side of the tailhead by either the livestock inspector or the contract veterinarian. Said brand indicates that the bull is infected with trichomoniasis and must be slaughtered. All breeding bulls from positive herds are required to have an additional individual negative test prior to exposure to female cattle.

Any person who fails to satisfy the requirements of this rule, or knowingly sells animals infected with trichomoniasis, other than to slaughter, will be fined \$200.00 per violation. Owners of untested bulls that have been exposed to female cattle will be fined \$200.00 per violation regardless of the time of year. Any bull which has strayed and comingles with female cattle may be required to be tested (or re-tested) for trichomoniasis. The owner of the offending bull shall bear all costs for the official test, or re-test. Bulls kept in confinement operations, such as dairies, are not subject to these rules.

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