TRICHOMONIASIS

Bruce L. King, DVM
Assistant State Veterinarian

Friday, March 14, 2008
What is Trichomoniasis?

- Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease in cattle caused by the protozoan *Trichomonas foetus.*
How is “Trich” Transmitted?

- Cows acquire the protozoa upon insemination by an infected bull. The organism infects the lining of the uterus, vagina, oviducts and cervix, making it possible for cows to transmit the disease to other bulls if inseminated by more than one animal.
Who is the primary reservoir??

- While bulls are the primary reservoir and vector of the organism, we’re finding that the cow also is a reservoir of infection.
Where does the organism reside in the bull?

- The organism lives in the crypts on the mucosal surface of the penis and prepuce of the bull. Trials have shown that it is not cultured from the epididymis or the testicles, and it does not affect semen quality or sexual desire of the bull.
The disease manifests itself in cows in a number of ways, including:

- A disproportionate number of open cows at pregnancy check
- Early abortions
- Extended calving season
- Mild to severe pyometra in some, but not all, infected cows
- Large, firm reproductive tracts in some cases, as the result of metritis and scarring of the uterus.
Distribution of Cases in a Herd Infected with Trichomoniasis

- A rancher can have a 90% calving rate and still be living with trichomoniasis.
Trichomoniasis preventative measures
A number of management processes need to take place concurrently to keep trichomoniasis out of cow herds.

- Include Trich. vaccine
- Repair fences
- Cull open cows
- Test & sell positive bulls
- Repro, disease vaccines
- Short breeding season
- Maintain closed herds
- Use young bulls

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How many times should I test my bulls if “Trich” has been diagnosed in my region?

- Test all bulls for trich at least 3 times before next breeding season.
  - 1st test - 80-85%
  - 2nd test - 90-95%
  - 3rd test - 98%+

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The TrichGuard® Trichomonas Foetus Vaccine from Fort Dodge

- Inject one, 2-mL dose. Repeat in two to four weeks, ideally preceding breeding season by four weeks.
- Revaccinate annually.
- Do not administer vaccine within 60 days of slaughter.

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Cleaning House

- Test all bulls approximately two to three weeks after the breeding season, and cull those that test positive.
- Cull all cows found open at pregnancy checking, as well as those that may have had late abortions and do not calve with the rest of the herd.

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Cleaning House Cont.

- Isolate and test incoming bulls to safeguard against buying the problem.
- Use A.I. as an alternative to natural service.
- Do not lease or share bulls unless an agreed upon trichomoniasis testing and surveillance program is in place.

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Cleaning House Cont.

- Do not sell bulls onto the open market that are known to be trichomoniasis-infected.
- Vaccinate heifers and cows on an ongoing schedule, if the disease is at all present in the region.
- Record calving dates and weaning weights, at a minimum, to promote early detection.

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Utah Trichomoniasis Rules

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Importing of Bulls into Utah

- All bulls nine months of age and older, entering Utah, must be tested for Trichomoniasis by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to entry into Utah. (Any Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued for bulls covered under this rule shall bear a statement “Trichomoniasis has not been diagnosed in the herd of origin within the past 12 months”)

- What if “Trich” had been diagnosed within the past 12 months in the herd of origin?
Importing Exceptions:

- Bulls going directly to slaughter or to a qualified feedlot
- Feeder bulls kept in total confinement operations
- Rodeo bulls for the purpose of exhibition
- Bulls attending livestock shows for the purpose of exhibition

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Bulls residing in Utah

- All bulls nine months of age and older and all commuter bulls must be tested with an official test for trichomoniasis annually, between October 1st and May 31st and prior to exposure to female cattle.
- After May 31, owners of untested bulls may be fined $200/head.
- Owners of untested bulls exposed to female cattle may be fined up to $500/head regardless of the time of year.

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Bulls offered for sale in Utah

- Bulls nine months of age and older being offered for sale for reproductive purposes must be tested for Trichomoniasis with an official test within 30 days prior to sale and shall bear a current official Trichomoniasis test tag. Bulls that have had contact with female cattle subsequent to testing must be retested prior to sale.
Declaring the Trichomoniasis Status

- It shall be the responsibility of the owner or his agent to declare, on the auction drive-slip, the Trichomoniasis status of a bull being offered for sale at a livestock auction. Untested bulls, including dairy bulls, may be sold for slaughter only, or for direct movement to a Qualified Feedlot or Total Confinement Operation.
Found Estray Bulls

- Any bull over nine months of age which is found estray and commingles with another producers 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.
Official Trichomoniasis Test Tag

- All Utah bulls, which are tested, shall be tagged in the right ear with a current Official State of Utah Trichomoniasis test tag by the accredited veterinarian performing the test.

- 2005-2006 GREEN    2008-2009 LIGHT BLUE
- 2006-2007 WHITE    2009-2010 YELLOW
- 2007-2008 ORANGE    2010-2011 GREEN

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Test Positive Bulls

- All bulls testing positive for Trichomoniasis must be reported immediately to:
  1) the owner
  2) the State Veterinarian, by the veterinarian performing the test.

*The owner shall be required to notify the administrators of the common grazing allotment and any neighboring (contiguous) cattleman within ten days following such notification.

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Test Positive Bulls Cont.

- All positive bulls must be sent by direct movement within 14 days, to:
  1) slaughter at an approved facility
  2) to a Qualified Feedlot
  3) to an approved auction 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.
Brandishing of Positive Bulls

- Positive bulls entering a Qualified Feedlot, or Approved Auction Market shall be identified with a lazy V brand on the left side of the tail.
When Considered Positive??

- A bull is considered positive if Trichomoniasis organisms are identified when cultured by the examining veterinarian or laboratory.

*An owner may have the option to request submission of the positive sample to an approved reference laboratory for confirmation by PCR. The bull must be 16 months of age or younger and the sample must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of being found positive.
Are there any Questions??

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