

TRICHOMONIASIS REGULATIONS IN MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Bovine Trichomoniasis Control regulations require bulls over 24 months old to be tested within 30 days before entering the state unless accompanied by a "virgin bull certificate" stating that the bull has not been exposed to any cows since weaning. A statement to this effect can be written on the animal's health certificate. This regulation includes any bulls brought into the state for sale or auction.

Any trichomoniasis - positive bulls found within the state are required to go to slaughter.

Many states have recently included trichomoniasis testing requirements in their import regulations, and producers should be aware of such regulations prior to selling bulls out of state.

The complete ruling, including requirements for testing and disposition of positive animals, may be found in the Rules of the Mississippi Board of Animal Health, Subpart 2, Chapter 19.

<http://www.mbah.state.ms.us/regulations/index.html>



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M1647

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. DR. MELISSA J. MIXON, Interim Director (5000 06-10)

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT Trichomoniasis in Cattle



Bovine trichomoniasis can be costly for cattle operations.



The reservoir for the organism is the persistently infected bull.



There are two major methods of testing bulls for trichomoniasis: culture and polymerase chain reaction (PCR).



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State Import Requirements for Trichomoniasis

<p>Bulls > 24 months with the following exceptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exhibition and rodeo bulls that are temporarily in the state 2. Bulls consigned to go directly to slaughter 	<p>Negative trichomoniasis test on three consecutive cultures or single PCR test within 30 days of state entrance Official permanent identification</p>
<p>Virgin Bulls < 24 months</p>	<p>Accompanying statement of virgin status and age Official permanent identification</p>
<p>Females</p>	<p>No trichomoniasis testing requirements</p>
<p>Positive Bulls may not be brought in to the state for any purpose except to go directly to slaughter</p>	<p>Movement permit to slaughter Official permanent identification</p>

For additional information on trichomoniasis, contact your local veterinarian, the MSU Veterinary Extension Coordinator, or Dr. Jim Watson at the Mississippi Board of Animal Health at 888-646-8731.



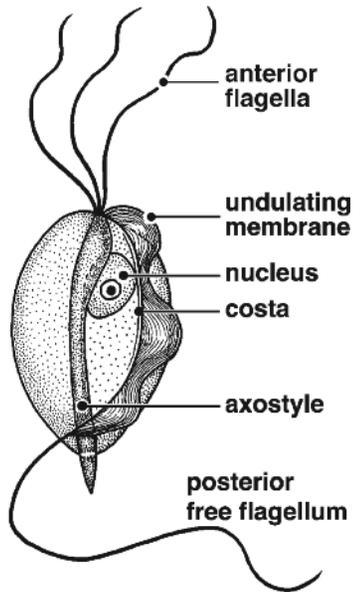
Trichomoniasis

Bovine trichomoniasis can be costly for both beef and dairy cattle operations that use natural service. The disease can be found worldwide and causes extended breeding seasons and diminished calf crops.

Trichomoniasis (often called “trich”) is a true venereal disease of cattle caused by a protozoan organism called *Tritrichomonas foetus*. It is spread through sexual contact. There are no approved treatments for infected bulls or cows.

In cows, the organism lives in the vagina, cervix, uterus and oviducts. Infected cow herds experience infertility, uterine infections (pyometras), and early abortions. Pregnancy losses occur early in gestation, resulting in repeat breeders and inconsistent calving distributions.

The reservoir for this organism is the persistently infected bull. The organism lives in the sheath and skin folds of the bull’s penis. As the bull ages, these skin folds grow, giving the organism more places to grow. Therefore, bulls more than 4 years old are more likely to be chronic carriers of the disease. If undetected, this lifelong infection in older bulls can result in disease transmission from one breeding season to another. Trichomoniasis causes no clinical signs in the bull and does not affect sexual behavior or semen quality.



Testing

Given the devastating effects that trichomoniasis can have on your breeding herd, it is important to identify and prevent infected bulls from entering your herd.

There are two major methods of testing bulls for trichomoniasis: culture and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Both tests require a swab or scraping of the bull’s prepuce. Three separate culture tests, each conducted not less than one week apart, or one PCR test should be performed. A bull undergoing the three separate official culture tests must test negative on every test to be considered free of trichomoniasis.



All samples to be submitted for testing for trichomoniasis should be drawn by an accredited veterinarian. Testing of samples should be performed at an official laboratory or by a certified, accredited veterinarian qualified to test for trichomoniasis.

The Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory offers both methods of testing. Contact your herd veterinarian for testing options and pricing.

Prevention and Control

To control trichomoniasis in an infected herd, you must identify positive animals, remove positive bulls, and quarantine and enforce sexual rest of suspected or exposed females. When one animal is infected, the rest of the herd is probably also infected.

These management procedures can also help control reproductive disease: maintain a defined breeding season, perform pregnancy exams, use artificial insemination, cull open cows, purchase only younger cows and bulls, perform a breeding soundness exam (BSE) on all bulls before to the breeding season, and do not share or lease bulls. Testing for trichomoniasis can easily be incorporated into yearly BSE’s or prepurchase exams.



Keep good records monitoring your herd’s reproductive efficiency. You may notice bulls servicing cows later in the breeding season, decreases in pregnancy rates, spread out calving seasons, or highly variable weaning weights.

Several conditions can cause these signs in cattle, and it is important to work with your herd veterinarian to maintain your herd’s reproductive health.