

OKLAHOMA BOVINE TRICHOMONIASIS

TRICHOMONIASIS—THE DISEASE

Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trick o moan eye a sis) is a venereal disease of cattle caused by the protozoan *Trichostrongylus axei*, which is about the size of a sperm cell. Infected bulls carry the protozoan on their penis and prepuce. As a bull ages the conditions on the surface of the organs become more favorable allowing the organism to survive and multiply.

Trichomoniasis, or “Trich”, is transmitted to cows through breeding. Cows usually abort early in the pregnancy and become temporarily infertile. Cattle producers can lose valuable income from the resulting extended breeding season and diminished calf crop. In a herd with a compact breeding season decreases in calving percentages can reach 50%.

You can't tell by looking! Infected breeding bulls continue to appear and act normally. Only testing will confirm the presence or absence of the disease causing protozoa. Once infected, bulls remain infected and capable of spreading infection. **No approved treatment or vaccine exists for bulls.**

The majority of infected cows will clear the infection if given 120-150 days (4-5 months) of sexual rest. A vaccine can also be administered to cows to help prevent the disease. There is evidence that a very small percentage of cows may carry the infection through a gestation or a dry period and reinfect virgin bulls the next breeding season.

Producers with infected herds should work with their veterinarian to determine the most appropriate measures to eliminate the disease from their cattle herds.

More information on management of the disease can be obtained from your local veterinarian, Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Oklahoma State University Extension Service, Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, or the Animal Industry Division of Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF).

OKLAHOMA'S CATTLE TRICHOMONIASIS PROGRAM

Most states in the western part of the United States have developed “Trich” regulations to help control the disease. Many other states are recognizing the seriousness of the disease and are currently developing or implementing regulatory programs.

ODAFF worked with producer groups, veterinarians, and lab personnel to develop our Oklahoma Trich regulations.

Although the primary impact of Trichomoniasis is on female cattle and female cattle can spread Trich to bulls, Oklahoma Trich regulations focus on breeding bulls, the reservoir for the disease.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BREEDING BULLS ENTERING OKLAHOMA (Interstate Movement)

Bulls entering Oklahoma from any state must be tested negative for Trichomoniasis within 30 days of entry and be identified with an official identification device. Acceptable ID are a silver metal USDA tag, 840 RFID tag, registration tattoo or brand if accompanied by a copy of the registration papers. Exceptions are:

- ◆ Bulls less than 24 months of age that can be certified as virgin bulls.
- ◆ Bulls consigned directly to slaughter.
- ◆ Rodeo or bucking bulls that travel to an event and then leave the state.

Three negative culture tests at least 1 week apart or 1 negative PCR Test meets the Oklahoma testing requirements.

For **ALL** bulls entering Oklahoma, applicable tuberculosis and/or brucellosis entry requirements must be met and the shipment must have a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

For OK entry requirement information, call ODAFF's permit line at 405-522-6141 or check the ODAFF web page at www.oda.state.ok.us/forms/ais/oair.pdf.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BREEDING BULLS CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP WITHIN OKLAHOMA (Intrastate Movement) 35:15-38

Effective January 1, 2011, any bull changing ownership in Oklahoma by private sale, public sale, lease, trade, or barter must have a negative test for Trichomoniasis within 30 days of change of ownership. Exceptions are:

- ◆ Bulls that are less than 24 months of age and can be certified as virgin bulls.
- ◆ Bulls that are being sold directly to a slaughter Establishment.
- ◆ “Cutter bulls” that will be fed for slaughter only.

Untested bulls consigned to livestock markets will be allowed to be sampled at the market at the buyer's expense and transported to the buyer's premise under quarantine until negative test results have been reported. The livestock market will not be liable for bulls that test positive after the sale. Those bulls must be castrated or sold for slaughter only within 10 days of notification.

If a bull tests positive he must be sold directly for slaughter or castrated within 10 days of notification. The herd of origin will be notified that a bull from the herd tested positive for Trich. The herd owner will be advised to contact their veterinarian for assistance in managing and eradicating the disease from the herd.