

Trichomoniasis Regulations in Mississippi

The Mississippi Bovine Trichomoniasis Control regulations require bulls older than 18 months to be tested within 60 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 contact the state of destination before any interstate animal movements.

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 (www.mbah.state.ms.us/regulations/index.html).

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State Import Requirements for Trichomoniasis

Bulls > 18 months

with the following exceptions:

1. Exhibition and rodeo bulls that are temporarily in the state
2. Bulls consigned to go directly to slaughter

Negative trichomoniasis test on a single PCR test or three consecutive cultures within 60 days of state entrance

Official identification

Virgin Bulls < 18 months

Accompanying statement of virgin status and age

Official identification

Females

No trichomoniasis testing requirements

Positive Bulls

may not be brought in to the state for any purpose except to go directly to slaughter

Movement permit to slaughter

Official identification

For additional information
on trichomoniasis,
contact *your local veterinarian* or

Dr. Jim Watson at the

Mississippi Board of Animal Health at

888-646-8731.



What You Should Know About TRICHOMONIASIS in Cattle

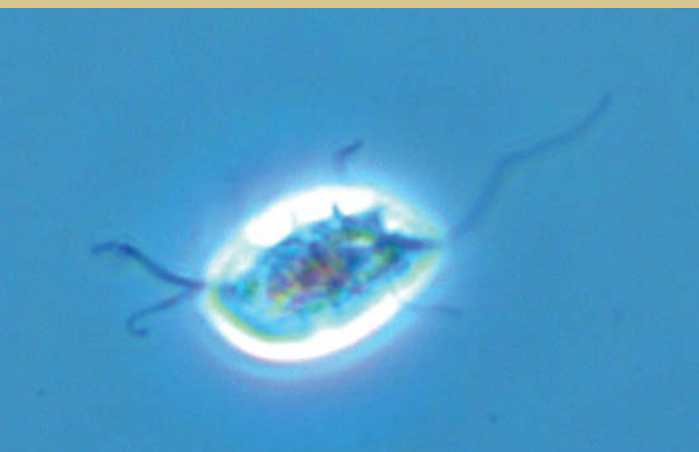


Trichomoniasis

Bovine trichomoniasis can be costly for cattle operations that use natural service. The disease can be found worldwide and can affect both beef and dairy cattle.

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.

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.



Trichomoniasis causes no clinical signs in the bull and does not affect sexual behavior or semen quality.

The reservoir for this organism is the persistently infected bull. The organism lives in the sheath and skin folds of the bull’s penis, and 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.

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 the breeding season, and
- do not share or lease bulls.

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.



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: polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and culture. Both tests require a swab or scraping of the bull’s prepuce.



Testing for trichomoniasis can easily be incorporated into yearly BSEs or prepurchase exams. All samples to be submitted for testing for trichomoniasis should be drawn by a certified, accredited veterinarian. Testing of samples should be performed at an official, approved laboratory.

The process for veterinarians to become certified as well as the standard collection procedures can be found on the Mississippi Board of Animal Health website at www.mbah.state.ms.us/disease_programs/bb/.

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