

4-1-2004

Trich Regulations Update

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Recommended Citation

Bagley, Clell V. DVM, "Trich Regulations Update" (2004). *All Archived Publications*. Paper 1220.
http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_histall/1220

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**Animal Health
Fact Sheet**



TRICH REGULATIONS UPDATE

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April 2004

AH/Beef/35

Current regulations require testing of all bulls over nine months of age, annually, between October 1 and May 31 of the following year.

This includes:

- Bulls entering Utah (watch this if you are buying bulls out of state !!)
- Bulls residing in Utah
- Bulls being offered for sale for reproductive purposes
- Bulls tested but which have then had contact with female cattle prior to sale
- Bulls which are found estray and commingle with another producer's female cattle

The bulls excluded from the testing requirement are:

- Bulls going directly to slaughter
- Bulls going to a qualified feedlot
- Feeder bulls in total confinement operations which are not exposed to female cattle
- Bulls taken to livestock shows for exhibition and return

Untested bulls (i.e., bulls without a current Trich test tag) may be sold for slaughter only, or for direct movement to a qualified feedlot or Total Confinement Operation.

All bulls which are tested, shall be tagged in the right ear with a current, official Trich test tag. Please recognize that the tag indicates the bull has been TESTED for trich. He may be positive or negative—the tag doesn't tell you which.

All bulls which test positive for trich must be sent by direct movement (within 14 days) to:

1. Slaughter at an approved facility
2. Qualified feedlot
3. Approved auction market for sale to #1 or #2 above

These positive bulls must also be accompanied by an official form (VS 1-27) and they will be branded with a lazy "V" on the left side of the tail (if they go to #2 or #3 above). The owner of any positive bull must notify the officers of the common grazing allotment and any neighboring (contiguous) cattlemen within ten days after he receives the positive results.

If trich positive bulls are found in a herd or a grazing association, all remaining bulls must be tested twice more (three tests) prior to being used for breeding. These tests must be a

week apart, so it is wise to begin the testing process early in all herds and especially in known infected herds.

Additional provisions for fines are included in the regulation, along with an option for conducting the PCR test on bulls 16 months of age and younger. Because of the potential for contamination of a sample with the “fecal trich” organism, an owner of a positive bull, 16 months of age or younger, may request submission of the positive sample to an approved laboratory for PCR confirmation. The positive sample must arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of being found positive. A sample that is inconclusive will be considered positive. A sample determined to be negative to *T. foetus* by PCR will be considered negative. But the bull must also be subsequently tested negative by culture, prior to being offered for sale and no sooner than 30 days after the PCR test.

You can read the entire regulation on the Internet (your County Extension Ag Agent can help you find it) at:

<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r058/r058-021.htm>

or you can request a copy from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR KEEPING TRICH OUT OF A CLEAN (UNINFECTED) HERD (ASSOCIATION)

- * Shorten the breeding season to 90-120 days (60-90 days preferred)
- * Keep bulls separate from ALL cows, except during the breeding season
- * At the end of the breeding season, test ALL bulls, before culling, to monitor that the herd is still clean
- * Test all new bulls. Try to ensure that the entire herd of origin is free of trich
- * Pregnancy test all cows or at least do the heifers and older cows. Cull those open and late calving
- * Raise or purchase virgin replacement heifers

MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES TO CLEAN UP AN INFECTED HERD (ASSOCIATION)

- * Shorten the breeding season to 90–120 days (60-90 days preferred)
- * Keep bulls separate from ALL cows, except during the breeding season
- * At the end of the breeding season, cull all problem (cull) bulls to slaughter, Test the remaining bulls **three times** and cull any positive bulls to slaughter
- * Test all new bulls and try to ensure the entire herd of origin was free of trich
- * Pregnancy test all cows and cull the open and late calving females
- * Raise or purchase virgin replacement heifers
- * Repair fences and prevent ALL straying
- * Cull cows which abort
- * At grazing “turnout,” every cow should have a calf by her side
- * Ensure that all members of the Association follow ALL the guidelines

SHOULD I VACCINATE MY HERD FOR TRICH?

A vaccine is produced by Fort Dodge Laboratories for trichomoniasis. It is called “TrichGuard.” The vaccine may be of help for certain situations with infected herds but you **must** follow the directions for vaccination. And, you must still implement the other management procedures (listed above) to clean up an infected herd. Vaccination is of greatest benefit when other herds with whom you mix or neighbor will NOT follow the recommended management procedures. The vaccine is of little if any benefit to bulls and will not aid an infected bull to clear the infection.

The directions say to give two doses of vaccine the first year at two to four weeks apart. This is critical. If you give only one dose of the vaccine, it is just a waste of money. It also directs that the last dose should be given at four weeks prior to the start of breeding. This too is a critical point and should be adhered to very closely. For the following years, an annual booster is required (just one) and this should be given again at four weeks prior to the start of breeding. Some ask if this could be given in the fall, at preg testing—and the answer is NO. That is too far away from breeding time and the immunity will have dropped back down again by the time of exposure.

To obtain a copy of the official current regulation on trichomoniasis, request a written copy from them or go to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food website at <http://ag.utah.gov/animind/ahealth.html>

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