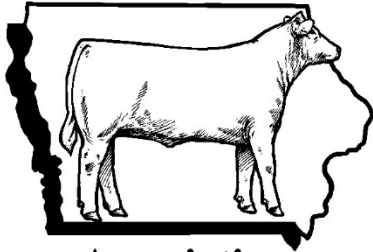


Iowa Cattlemen's



Association

Trichomoniasis Testing Regulations in Iowa

ICA Fact Sheet

February 2014

Overview

Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease in cattle that causes abortions and infertility in cows and heifers. A protozoan organism, *Tritrichomonas foetus*, is the etiological cause of Trichomoniasis, or Trich for short. This organism is transported from the bull's sheath to the cow's reproductive tract during breeding. Most often, the first clinical sign of Trich is an increase in the number of open or "late" cows during pregnancy testing. Bulls show no signs of the disease but can be tested for Trich by collecting preputial fluid from the sheath and either employing a culture or PCR test.

In 2012 the Iowa Veterinarian Medical Association conducted a Trichomoniasis survey across the state of Iowa. The survey was conducted at 101 sites in 34 counties. During the testing period they reported six bulls that tested positive for *Trichomoniasis foetus*. Additionally, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship had three positive cases reported from producer members in 2012 and 2013. Prior to 2012, Iowa had no cases of *Trichomoniasis foetus* reported.

These considerations combined impelled the Iowa Cattlemen's Association to work with stakeholders to develop testing protocols for the state that would limit the disease's impact in the state.

Animals Subject to Testing

- Effective February 12, 2014, bulls over the age of 24 months, or non-virgins are required to test negative prior to entry into the state of Iowa.
 - Their accompanied CVI needs to verify test results.

Testing Exemptions

- Bulls entering the state of Iowa must test negative for *Tritrichomonas foetus* unless they qualify under the following exemptions:
 - Animal is under the age of 24 months or is a virgin;
 - Animal is imported for rodeo or exhibition. Bulls must be temporarily in Iowa only for the purpose of the event and must leave after the event;
 - Animal is imported for slaughter or consigned directly to a licensed slaughter establishment or to a licensed livestock market and then directly to a licensed slaughter establishment.

Testing Procedures

- Prior to importation, preputial samples must test negative for *Trichomonas foetus*. Trich test(s) must be performed by an approved diagnostic laboratory as one of the following methods:
 - Three consecutive weekly negative *Trichomoniasis foetus* cultures.
 - One negative PCR test.
- Bulls shall be identified by official identification at the time the initial test sample is collected. Bulls must be tested 30 days prior to entry and may not be subject to sexual contact with females posttest and prior to entry into Iowa.
- Regulatory testing shall be done in a laboratory approved by the State Veterinarian and test results indicated on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Compliance & Penalties

- Animals imported into the state must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) unless they are consigned directly to a specifically approved Iowa auction market.
 - The approved CVI must accompany the animals to their final destination in Iowa.
- A person violating the testing protocols is subject to a civil penalty at most of \$1,000.
- A person who falsifies a CVI is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each reference to an animal falsified on the certificate.

In-state Testing

Producers that suspect a Trichomoniasis infection in their herd can work with their veterinarian to collect a sample to submit to the Iowa Vet Diagnostic Lab. Samples are typically ran twice a week, so results could be returned within three days' time.

It should be noted that Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine is working on a quick test for Trich that could be available for producers and would determine results within minutes. This test was approved by the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council, of which three members represent Iowa's beef industry.

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association worked in tandem with other commodity groups and the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to establish testing protocols for the state. A task force of producer and veterinarian members will continue to monitor the effectiveness of Iowa's Trichomoniasis testing program. Call 515.296.2266 with any questions.

ICA Fact Sheet derived from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Code Chapter 21, Section 65. Prepared by ICA Staff. Revised: Jan. 2014.