

What are the Implications of Infection with Trichomoniasis?

1. Obviously, there is the financial aspect of a severely lowered calf crop and/or prolonged calving season.
2. Of equal, and possibly more importance, the legal implications of ...
 - a) a neighboring herd being infected by commingling such as breeding with an infected herd.
 - b) an infected bull being sold with subsequent infection arising in the purchaser's herd.
 - c) lawsuits that could stem from infection spreading from herd to herd through negligence of the owner of an infected animal.
 - d) Fines or citations issued for non-compliance with WLSB Trich Rules.



Thank you for your cooperation in controlling this disease.

For more information, please contact your local veterinarian, or the....

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Check out the Wyoming Livestock Board Web Site at <http://wlsb.state.wy.us>

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Trichomoniasis...

Can You Afford It?



"Safeguarding Wyoming's Livestock Industry Today and for the Future"

Trichomoniasis Fact Sheet

Trichomoniasis (Trich) is continuing to be a problem in many areas of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Livestock Board has a policy of requiring known Trich positive bulls to be identified with a "V" brand on the left tail-head and destined to be sold only to immediate slaughter or feeding in an approved quarantined feedlot prior to going to immediate slaughter. In addition, the testing veterinarian is required to report positive bulls to the Wyoming Livestock Board immediately.

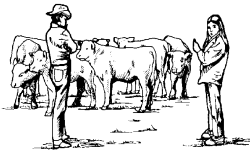
Trichomoniasis is an insidious venereal disease of cattle characterized by sterility, early abortion and pyometra (a pus producing uterine infection). Trich is caused by the protozoan *Trichomonas fetus* transmitted to cows by the chronically infected bull. Purchase of an infected bull or commingling of cattle are the usual means of introduction into a herd.

In the cow, early pregnancy may occur and the fetus may be destroyed by the *Trichomonas* organisms. The fetus and fetal membranes then degenerate resulting in pyometra.

In natural service, the transmission rate of the disease from an infected bull to cows he breeds is about 80%.

Trichomoniasis is often well established in a herd before a problem is recognized.

Usually the first indication of Trich is a lowered calf crop or a significant drop in conception rate noticed at pregnancy testing time.



Usually the symptoms of vaginitis and uterine infection in the cow go unnoticed under field conditions.

The recently infected bull may develop a mild inflammatory reaction of the genitalia that is not observable clinically.

The chronically infected bull shows no gross lesions.

Bulls going back to work at the end of the breeding season is a sign of Trichomoniasis.

The most common symptom of Trichomoniasis is infertility. This is characterized by cows returning for service many times during a breeding season, and irregular heat cycles.

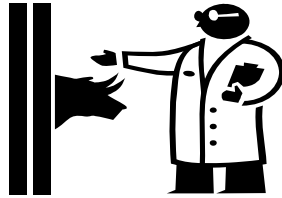
In herds with a 45 to 60 day breeding season, many cows will be open when the herd is pregnancy tested (up to 50%).

In bulls, the organism lives within the folds in the sheath and on the penis. Young bulls (less than 3 years of age) are relatively resistant because they do not have as many or as deep folds as do older bulls. Older bulls are very susceptible and once infected are considered permanently infected.

An outbreak of Trichomoniasis in a herd can be financially devastating.

Even a 20% reduction in calf crop can cost up to \$20,000 in a 100 cow herd due to loss of calf, cost of open cow, and an uneven calf crop.

Prevention / Management Against Trichomoniasis



1. Diagnosis is based on culture or PCR detection of the organism from samples obtained from the bull by a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory.
2. Several negative cultures are necessary to ensure that a bull does not carry the organisms. Older bulls (over 2 years of age) should be tested before use.
3. Ranchers should use only known "clean" bulls.
4. Ideally, use only young virgin bulls.
5. Avoid adding open, non-virgin cows to the herd.
6. Cull open cows from the herd.

7. Annual pregnancy testing and good breeding records are necessary tools in prevention and early detection of the disease.
8. A vaccine is available which has been shown to be beneficial in prevention.
9. Grazing associations should require all bulls to be tested before stocking the range.
10. Ranchers would minimize the risk of acquiring Trichomoniasis by having all cows pregnant before turning out on the range with other operators.
11. Keep all fences in good repair to avoid commingling of herds.

How to Clean Up A Herd Infected with Trichomoniasis

1. Good management and breeding records are essential.
2. All cows must be pregnancy tested at the end of the breeding season.
3. Length of breeding season should be limited to 45-60 days.
4. All open cows should be culled immediately and sold for slaughter only.
5. Cull bulls 3 years old and older. Test any bull retained in the herd at least 3 times.
6. Use only virgin bulls for replacements.
7. Split cow herd into small groups for breeding.
8. Breed heifers first (before cows) and only to virgin bulls.
9. Vaccinate - this may help but is not the only tool to clean up a herd.
10. To prevent spread, avoid grazing in common with other herds.

