

PROPOSED TRICH RULE

The Ag Policy Committee of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association has been diligently working to resolve the issue of Trichomoniasis in Arizona's cattle herd and to be a progressive component of the rule-making process. Chaired by Roger Warner and co-chair Dean Fish, the committee has met many times in the past year and recently tested almost 100 bulls in southern Arizona to gauge the presence of the disease. In March, Roger Warner, Jay Whetten and Jim O'Haco presented the below Draft Rule at the UA Range Livestock Nutrition Workshops across the state. It is our hope that this can be voted upon at this summer's meeting.

ACGA needs producer input on the rule to ensure it works for the industry. You can call, mail or email your concerns or contact the State Veterinarian with your input. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion to amend the rule before summer convention.

This is how the rule would read: R3-2-4XX(14) Bovine Trichomoniasis

DEFINITIONS:

Accredited Veterinarian means an individual who is currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Arizona and is an Accredited Level II by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service.

Approved Laboratory means any laboratory designated and approved by the State Veterinarian for examining *T. foetus* samples and reporting all results to the State Veterinarian.

Bull(s) are intact male bovine, non-virgin, that are older than 18 months of age or have two permanent incisor teeth (if age unknown), and is not confined to a Dairy Production System.

Change of Ownership means a bull that is sold, leased, gifted, exchanged or otherwise changing possession for breeding purposes in Arizona.

Commingle means cattle of opposite sex in the same enclosure or pasture with a reasonable opportunity for sexual contact.

Direct Slaughter means transporting an animal from site of testing directly to a slaughter plant without unloading prior to arrival.

Official *T. foetus* bull test means the sampling of a bull by a licensed, accredited veterinarian. Such test must be conducted after at least 7 days separation from all female bovine. The bull and sample must be officially and individually identified and documented for laboratory submission. The official laboratory test shall be a polymerase chain reaction (PCR), or other technologies as approved by the State Veterinarian and adopted through a Director's Administrative Order. The test is not considered official until results are reported by the testing laboratory.

Official *T. foetus* laboratory testing means the laboratory procedures that shall be approved by the state veterinarian for identification of *T. foetus*.

Positive *T. foetus* bull means a bull that has had a positive official *T. foetus* bull test.

Tritrichomonas foetus (or *T. foetus*) means a protozoan parasite that is the causative agent to the contagious venereal disease Trichomoniasis.

A. Testing requirements for Official *T. foetus*:

1. All Arizona origin bulls sold, leased, gifted, exchanged or otherwise changing possession for breeding purposes in Arizona shall be tested for *T. foetus* via Official *T. foetus* bull test prior to sale or change of ownership in the state, unless going to direct slaughter. *T. foetus* testing shall be performed on bulls prior to change of ownership of that bull.
2. The Official *T. foetus* test shall be performed by an Accredited Veterinarian through an Approved Laboratory.
3. Pooled testing is not an official test.

4. The *T. foetus* negative test is valid for 60 days after the test is performed, providing the bull is kept separated from all female bovine.

B. Positive bull identification.

1. When a positive *T. foetus* bull is identified, the Accredited Veterinarian shall notify the producer upon receipt of the positive test results.
2. Regardless of R3-2-402, the Accredited Veterinarian and Approved Laboratory shall notify the State Veterinarian of a positive *T. foetus* bull within 4 hours of receiving the results. The State Veterinarian shall to the best of their ability notify the regional bovine producers about the positive test within 14 days upon notification of positive test. The State Veterinarian is not required to reveal any details of the test just that there is a positive test in the region.
3. The Accredited Veterinarian that performed the test shall return to place of testing to verify the official identification of the positive bull.
4. The Accredited Veterinarian, or a person under direct supervision of the Veterinarian, shall brand the bull with an official "S" brand adjacent to the tailhead on the right hip.
5. If the bull testing positive is not at the premises where the *T. foetus* testing occurred, the Accredited Veterinarian will immediately notify the State Veterinarian's Office.
6. If an Accredited Veterinarian is unable to return to the premises in a time that is reasonable for sale of the bull, the producer shall take the positive *T. foetus* bull directly to the regional livestock saleyard.
 - i. The producer shall immediately notify the saleyard of the positive *T. foetus* bull. Failure to notify the saleyard of the positive *T. foetus* bull will result in violation of the hold order pursuant to subsection (C)(1) of this rule and the producer shall be subject to the penalties of A.R.S. § 3-1205 (D).
 - ii. Prior to sale at the saleyard, a Livestock Officer or Inspector shall verify the official identification of the positive *T. foetus* test bull.
 - iii. After the official identification is verified, the bull shall be branded with an official "S" brand adjacent to the tailhead on the right hip. The branding shall be done under direct supervision of a Livestock Officer or Inspector.

C. Disposal of bull testing positive.

1. A bull testing positive for *T. foetus* and branded with the official "S" brand shall remain under a hold order until the bull can go directly to slaughter.
2. The *T. foetus* positive bull shall not be commingled with any other female bovine. The bull shall go from the testing premises to direct slaughter or to the saleyard within 30 days of positive *T. foetus* test.
3. All bulls shall be placed under a hold order upon notification of the *T. foetus* positive test, until two negative tests for *T. foetus*.
4. To rescind the hold order all bulls will need two negative official *T. foetus* tests within 60 days from notification of the original

T. foetus positive test. All bulls shall be under a management program overseen by the herd veterinarian until two negative *T. foetus* tests are performed, documented, and reported to the State Veterinarian's Office.

5. All sexually intact non-virgin female bovine within the herd shall also remain in a hold order within ranch boundaries and not change ownership except for direct slaughter, until the hold order is rescinded.
6. Steers and unbred heifers shall not be subject under the hold order.
7. Persons that violate the hold order are subject to the penalties of A.R.S. § 3-1205 (D).

THIS IS HOW THE CURRENT IMPORT RULE WOULD BE AMENDED (in red):

R3-2-612 (J)

J. Trichomoniasis requirements for bulls imported into Arizona from other states.

1. The owner or owner's agent shall ensure bulls:
 - a) Test negative for *Tritrichomonas foetus* within 30 days prior to shipment using a polymerase chain reaction test or **A TEST APPROVED BY THE STATE VETERINARIAN,**

except for bulls:

- i. Less than ~~one year~~ **18 MONTHS** of age,
- ii. Consigned directly to a state or federal licensed slaughter facility,
- iii. Consigned directly to a dairy,
- iv. Consigned directly to an exhibition or rodeo,
- v. Consigned directly to a licensed feedlot for castration on arrival,
- vi. Branded with an "F" adjacent to the tailhead and consigned directly to a designated feedlot for feeding and later movement directly to slaughter, and b) Have no breeding activity during the interval between the collection of a sample and the date of shipment.

2. An accredited veterinarian approved to collect samples for *Tritrichomonas foetus* testing by the state animal health official in the state of origin shall collect the *Tritrichomonas foetus* test samples.
3. A laboratory approved to conduct tests for *Tritrichomonas foetus* by the state animal health official in the state of origin shall perform the test for *Tritrichomonas foetus*.

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