



NEWS RELEASE

Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2011

Changes to Texas Cattle Trichomoniasis Regulations

AUSTIN – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) recently adopted changes to its cattle Trichomoniasis (Trich) rules. Trich is a venereal disease of cattle caused by protozoa that can cause abortions and infertility, subsequently causing economic losses for the producer. The cattle program is managed primarily through required testing of breeding bulls for the disease prior to change of ownership or entry into a herd. Interested producers, veterinarians and stakeholders provided suggestions to the TAHC over the previous year to help improve the Trich program. A TAHC Trich working group met in May to review the submitted suggestions and provided recommendations for the TAHC to consider. The working group suggestions that were accepted and recently passed by the TAHC went into effect on August 14.

The following is an overview of rule changes for the Texas cattle Trichomoniasis program.

1. Texas will no longer accept “virgin” bulls for entry from other states. All breeding bulls 12 months of age and older must have a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Trich test prior to entry.
2. Texas will no longer accept a negative culture test(s) for entry of breeding bulls into the state. Only PCR tests will be accepted.
3. Untested out-of-state bulls are now allowed entry into Texas if consigned directly to Trich certified feedyard facilities, and accompanied by a permit issued by an accredited veterinarian from the state of origin.
4. A “Control Herd Plan” option has been created that allows large cattle operations up to three years to eradicate Trich from their herd. The enrolled herds are allowed to test once per year (preferably prior to breeding season) instead of two or more times as normally required, but in exchange they must consult with a veterinarian and enter into a plan designed to remove the disease from the herd. In the interim, all bulls leaving the herd must be sold for slaughter or feeding for slaughter only until their quarantine is released.
5. The TAHC will now allow an approved laboratory to “pool” individually submitted samples (up to 5 samples) for PCR testing, to count as one of the two tests normally required to release a herd from quarantine. Pooled samples will still not be allowed for change of ownership testing however. This change was designed as a cost saving

measure for producers, and must be approved in advance by TAHC regional management in consultation with the owner or veterinarian.

Questions about the new regulations may be directed to TAHC regional staff.

Region 1 (Amarillo, TX)

Phone: 806-354-9335

Region Director: Dr. Brad Williams

Supervising Inspector: Bob Young

Region 5 (Beeville, TX)

Phone: 361-358-3234

Regional Director: Dr. David Finch

Effective September 1

Supervising Inspector: Howard Helmers

Region 2 (Hempstead, TX)

Phone: 979-921-9481

Regional Director: Dr. Mark Michalke

Supervising Inspector: Dwayne Easley

Region 6 (Lampasas, TX)

Phone: 512-556-6277

Region Director: Dr. Pete Fincher

Region 3 (Fort Worth, TX)

Phone: 817-244-2597

Region Director: Dr. Max Dow

Supervising Inspector: Bobby Crozier

Region 7 (Rockdale, TX)

Phone: 512-446-2507

Regional Director: Dr. Tommy Barton

Supervising Inspector: Russell Iselt

Region 4 (Mt. Pleasant, TX)

Phone: 903-572-1966

Regional Director: Dr. Greg Hawkins

Supervising Inspector: Chip Nicholson

For more information about Trich visit http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/trich/trich.html.

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

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