TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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COMMISSIONER

REGULATORY SERVICES
ANIMAL HEALTH

Bovine trichomoniasis, a venereal disease caused by the parasite *Trichomonas foetus*, can cause decreased reproductive efficiency, early embryonic death, abortion, pyometra and transient infertility in infected cattle, and could have a severe economic impact on beef operations and some dairies in Tennessee. In view of the threat posed by this disease to the health of the state's livestock and livestock industry, the state veterinarian, pursuant to the authority vested in him by Tenn. Code Ann. § 44-2-102, hereby ORDERS as follows:

Definitions.

Breeding Bull - Any bull that is capable of breeding cows and heifers and is not a virgin bull.

Herd - A herd is all animals under common ownership or which have been in physical contact with each other within the preceding twelve (12) months, whether located on one or more premises.

Official Culture Test - A laboratory test method whereby a specimen is grown in a specially prepared nourishing culture medium specifically formulated for a particular bacteria or protozoon such as *Trichomonas foetus*. A culture test for trichomoniasis shall be performed by a lab approved by the state veterinarian in order to be accepted as an official test.

Official Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test – A scientific technique in molecular biology used to determine a particular DNA sequence that can be used to diagnose certain diseases such as trichomoniasis. A PCR test for trichomoniasis shall be shall be performed by a lab approved by the state veterinarian in order to be accepted as an official test.

Trichomoniasis - A cattle disease caused by the protozoan parasite Trichomonas foetus that can result in infertility, open cows, and occasional abortions in cows and heifers.

Virgin Bull - A bull less than two years of age, as evidenced by dentition or breed registry papers, which is not known to have been comingled with a cow or heifer within the past six months.

Trichomoniasis – Importation Requirements.

(1) Importation of Breeding Bulls into Tennessee

(a) Except as noted under (c) below, breeding bulls originating from herds with no history of trichomoniasis shall:

1. Enter with a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) which includes the breeding bull's official permanent identification and a statement on the CVI

signed by the herd veterinarian and the breeding bull's owner stating that, to the best of their knowledge, the herd of origin has never been diagnosed with a case of trichomoniasis and the bull has not been comingled with a herd where a case of trichomoniasis has been known to exist; and

2. Have proof of either a negative official PCR test result from a specimen of the bull taken within thirty days prior to the bull's entering the state, or proof of three consecutive negative official cultures taken from one to three weeks apart, with the last culture being taken within thirty days prior to the bull's entering the state.

(b) Except as noted under (c) below, breeding bulls originating from herds with a history of trichomoniasis shall:

1. Enter with a certificate of veterinary inspection containing the breeding bull's official permanent identification; and

2. Provide proof of two consecutive negative official PCR test results from a specimen of the bull taken seven to ten days apart.

(c) Exceptions

1. Exhibition and rodeo bulls that are temporarily in the state for the sole purpose of the event, will be leaving the state after the event, and are not commingled with breeding bulls, cows and heifers while in the state, are exempt from the trichomoniasis entry requirements above.

2. Bulls consigned directly to slaughter are exempt from the trichomoniasis entry requirements above.

(2) Importation of Virgin Bulls into Tennessee

(a) Virgin bulls originating from herds with no history of trichomoniasis shall enter with a certificate of veterinary inspection containing the breeding bull's official permanent identification and a statement on the CVI signed by the herd veterinarian and the breeding bull's owner stating that to the best of their knowledge, the herd of origin has never been diagnosed with a case of trichomoniasis and the bull is a virgin bull as defined above.

(b) Virgin bulls originating from herds with a history of trichomoniasis shall enter with a certificate of veterinary inspection containing the virgin bull's official permanent identification and a statement signed by the herd veterinarian and the virgin bull's owner stating that the bull is a virgin bull and has not been commingled with breeding bulls, cows or heifers.

Trichomoniasis – Breeding Bulls in Tennessee.

(1) All sample collection for trichomoniasis testing for bulls shall be performed by an accredited veterinarian approved by the state veterinarian or be performed by a state or federal animal health official.

(2) All positive test results for trichomoniasis shall be reported by the accredited veterinarian and the approved laboratory to the state veterinarian within 24 hours after receipt of test results.

(3) Any bull testing positive on an official PCR test or official culture test shall be immediately separated from the herd, isolated and quarantined. If the positive test result is from an official culture test, a request can be made to the state veterinarian within five days to confirm the positive test result with official PCR testing. If the confirming PCR test comes back positive, then the bull shall be considered to be infected and subject to the restrictions set out in these regulations. Two consecutive negative official PCR tests performed seven to ten days apart shall be required for the bull to be designated trichomoniasis-negative and have the quarantine released.

(4) Infected bulls shall only be moved under a USDA Veterinary Services 1-27 permit issued by the state veterinarian or his/her representative.

(5) An infected bull accompanied by a USDA Veterinary Services 1-27 permit issued by the state veterinarian or his/her representative shall be moved directly to slaughter, or sold directly for slaughter through a licensed livestock market, within 30 days from receipt of the positive test results of the original test or the results of the confirming PCR test, whichever is later.

(6) All breeding bulls that have been comingled with a trichomoniasis-positive bull for any period of time within the last six (6) months, and all breeding bulls comingled with females that have been comingled with a trichomoniasis-positive bull for any period of time within six (6) months prior to the receipt of a positive trichomoniasis test result shall immediately be separated and quarantined from other cattle and tested for trichomoniasis. Two PCR tests conducted at least seven to ten days apart or three separate official culture tests, each conducted from one to 3 weeks apart, shall be performed on each bull. Test samples shall not be pooled. Each official test conducted on a bull shall show a negative result before the tested bull will be released from the quarantine.

(7) When any of the following occurs, breeding bulls within the state of Tennessee shall be officially designated trichomoniasis-negative for a period of thirty days from the date of the last specimen taken:

    (a) One official negative PCR test result is obtained from a specimen taken from a bull whose herd has never tested positive for trichomoniasis.

(b) Two separate negative PCR test results are obtained from specimens taken from a bull with a herd history of trichomoniasis seven to ten days apart, or;

(c) Three separate and consecutive official negative culture test results are obtained from specimens taken from one week to three weeks apart.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Charles W. Hatcher, DVM
State Veterinarian