



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD
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Prevention of Bovine Trichomoniasis

PIERRE, SD – South Dakota State Veterinarian Dr. Dustin Oedekoven reminds cattle producers to comply with animal health regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of bovine trichomoniasis.

Trichomonas foetus is a reproductive disease of cattle. It is transmitted between cows and bulls during breeding, and can result in early term abortions. Producers are often unaware of the disease until it is well established in the herd. Signs that the disease may be present in a herd include a high number of open cows, cows showing signs of heat when they should be pregnant and the presence of many late-calving cows.

Cattle producers can take steps to help prevent their herds from becoming infected. Consult your herd veterinarian to assess the risk to your herd, and evaluate testing options and management strategies that will aid in early detection and prevention. Only purchase and use virgin bulls for breeding. Timely pregnancy testing of females and prompt removal of open cows to be sold for feeding and slaughter will also decrease the risk of disease spread. Finally, maintain good border fencing to help keep livestock in their respective pastures and avoid unintentional commingling of animals.

In cooperation with the cattle industry the South Dakota Animal Industry Board has implemented rules in an effort to help prevent trichomoniasis in cattle:

1. Non-virgin bulls must be tested negative for trichomoniasis prior to being sold, loaned or leased in South Dakota for breeding purposes;
2. Any non-virgin bull entering South Dakota must be tested negative for trichomoniasis;
3. No non-virgin and non-pregnant female cattle may be imported, loaned, leased nor acquired for breeding purposes in South Dakota.
4. Breeding cattle being imported must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection with individual official ID's listed and an import permit from the Animal Industry Board.

Cattle producers with concerns about trichomoniasis should contact their herd veterinarian or the South Dakota Animal Industry Board at 605-773-3321.

*OEDEKOVEN (OH' dih koh ven)