

Trichomoniasis



What it is –

- Trichomoniasis (trich) is a parasitic protozoan (*Trichomonas foetus*) transmitted between cows and bulls during breeding.
- The organism causes infertility and early term abortions.
- Producers are often unaware of the problem until the disease is well established in the herd.
- Signs that the disease may be present in a herd include a high number of open cows (20-50%), cows showing signs of heat when they should be pregnant, and the presence of many late-calving cows.

Prevention –

- Only purchase and use virgin bulls for breeding.
- If non-virgin bulls are purchased, they must be tested negative for *Trichomonas foetus* prior to 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.
- Purchase only virgin females or females from reputable sources.
- Maintain good border fencing to help keep livestock in their respective pastures and avoid unintentional commingling of animals.

Additional Resources:

- [Official SD Trichomoniasis Rules](#)
- [SD Trich Pamphlet](#)

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SD Administrative Rules

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

- Non-Virgin bulls must be tested negative for trichomoniasis prior to being sold, loaned or leased in South Dakota for breeding purposes;
- Any non-virgin bull entering South Dakota must be tested negative for trichomoniasis;
- No non-virgin and non-pregnant female cattle may be imported, loaned, leased nor acquired for breeding purposes in South Dakota

Disease control -

- The SD Animal Industry Board investigates all positive herds by working with the producer and their veterinarian to eliminate the disease.
- All adjacent and epidemiologically linked herds are notified and evaluated for risk. It is recommended that these herds individually test all bulls by PCR.
- For known positive herds, or herds known to have commingled with a positive herd, multiple individual tests may be required if bulls are to be retained for breeding.
- Samples should NOT be pooled when testing positive/exposed herds.

Cattle producers with concerns about trichomoniasis should contact their herd veterinarian or the South Dakota Animal Industry Board at 605.773.3321