New Colorado Trichomoniasis Rule Now in Effect
From the State Veterinarian's Office

The rulemaking process for the Colorado Trichomoniasis Rule is complete and the new regulations are now in effect. It was a comprehensive and collaborative effort of many different groups and individuals; it included the livestock industry associations, livestock producers, veterinary medical groups, veterinary scientific community, and regulatory personnel from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. We thank all those who provided input – it was important and we value it very much!

The driving force for making revisions to the Trichomoniasis rule was our common goal of enhancing Colorado’s animal health and disease control activities. We are committed to work together with you under that goal to support cattle producers and to prevent disease in our cattle herds.

The new trichomoniasis rule took effect on April 30th, 2010 – it can be found on our website at www.colorado.gov/ag, please click on “Rules & Regulations” and then on “Livestock Disease Control.”

Here are the main changes in the new rule:

1. Imported bulls: All bulls 12 months of age and older that are entering Colorado must have a negative T.foetus test within 30 days prior to entry. There is no virgin bull affidavit for imported (out-of-state) bulls.

2. Intra-state bulls: All non-virgin bulls changing ownership or possession must be trich tested unless the animal is going to slaughter.
   • A negative T. foetus test will be required for all intra-state bulls 18 months of age or older.
   • All virgin intra-state bulls between the ages of 12 and 18 months of age must be accompanied by a virgin bull affidavit or a negative T. foetus test

3. Bulls are to have 30 days of sexual rest before being trich tested; this does not apply to the interval between consecutive trich tests when a herd is quarantined (see point #4 below).

4. For herds that are quarantined due to a trichomoniasis diagnosis, if a T. foetus PCR test is being used, only two consecutive negative tests would be needed to remove the quarantine. If T. foetus culture tests are used, the requirement is still three negative tests on the remaining herd bulls to remove the quarantine. The minimum interval between the tests remains at 7 days.

5. All non-virgin bulls which have not been trich tested shall be identified at the livestock markets with a trich back-tag or another reasonable method to identify them as non-trich tested, “slaughter only” bulls.
The State Veterinarian’s Office will continue to emphasize the following important points in discussions about trichomoniasis in cattle:

• Testing and monitoring herds for trichomoniasis is important in controlling the infection

• Trichomoniasis is a “silent rustler” of cattle—undetected trichomoniasis will “steal” calves and profits

• Every herd is unique and cattle producers need to plan their bull management with a veterinarian.

If you have further questions or comments, call the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-239-4161.