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**Don't forget
Briarwood Farms
Spring Quality Sale
Bulls & Females
Mar. 10, 2012**



Economic Impact of Trichomoniasis

New state law goes into effect Sept. 1

Trichomoniasis is a bovine venereal disease which causes substantial reproductive and economical losses in the cow/calf operations which utilize natural service breeding. Trichomoniasis, commonly called "Trich," it is caused by the protozoan *Tritrichomonas foetus* (*T.foetus*). Bulls do not show any signs or symptoms of disease except signs of infertility due to cows/heifers that are recycling. Cows will recycle due to early embryonic deaths, if a fetus is aborted it is usually in the first trimester or early second trimester, but this is very rare. This disease works silently in the herd and becomes an economic disaster to the cow/calf producer in the fall, when pregnancy exams are preformed.

The economic impact to producers can be devastating due to loss of income from decreased calf crop and increase expense of replacing your breeding stock. The percentage of open cows can easily increase from 5% to 30%. Bulls become chronic carriers with no current treatment protocol available. The value of a breeding bull vs. a slaughter bull can be tremendous. For example, a \$5,000 purchased breeding bull with a slaughter value of \$1080 (1800# @ \$60.00/cwt.) represents a approximate loss of \$3000 to the producer. Cows can usually clear the infection in 2 to 6 months (sometimes longer), but may become infected again and have lost of time in their calving intervals. The economics of the loss is substantial if you have 50% of your cowherd you must sell due to their open pregnancy status. If your breeding cows are valued at approximately \$1000 and the

slaughter cow value is \$600 (1200# @ \$50/cwt.), you've lost \$400/hd, not including your feeding/labor, etc expenses.

Prevention is the key to managing "Trich". Consult your veterinarian and have your bulls tested prior to breeding season during your routine semen evaluation. Practice biosecurity and do not use/lease/lend bulls to or from your neighbors, without "Trich" testing the bulls first. Trichomoniasis is diagnosed in bulls by culturing via preputial wash and placing the sample into a special culture media or perform a PCR test; a two week sexual rest prior to testing is recommended. One culture will identify 80-85% of the positive bulls; three cultures at one-week intervals increase the chances of successfully identifying a positive bull to 99%. Only a single PCR is required to obtain the same success rate as three cultures. The MDA Springfield Diagnostic Laboratory is performing the culture test; please contact them at 417-895-6861 for test kits.

New Intrastate Trichomoniasis Regulations

Missouri will begin enforcing Trichomoniasis regulations for bulls which are sold, leased, bartered, or traded within the state on September 1, 2011. The regulations will require all non-virgin bulls and all bulls over the age of 30 months (24 months if entering a live-stock market) to be tested for Trichomoniasis.

The following bulls are exempt from testing:

- Going directly to slaughter

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