

# BOVINE TRICHOMONIASIS



Bovine Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease of cattle caused by *Trichomonas foetus* (T. foetus). T. foetus infection causes fertility problems, such as early embryonic death or abortion of the calf, and is asymptomatic in bulls.

Colorado regulation 8 CCR-1201-1 requires all non-virgin bulls changing ownership or leases, or being transported into Colorado, unless the animal is going to slaughter, to be tested for T. foetus. Bulls on public land grazing permits or with grazing associations must also be tested prior to turn-out.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL) is approved for T. foetus testing and offers culture from Ringers Lactate U.S.P. and InPouch™ TF pouches. According to the Colorado regulation, Ringers samples must be hand carried to the lab within 24 hours of sampling and InPouch™ samples must be received by the lab within 48 hours of sampling to be a valid regulatory test.

Positive cultures (Ringers or InPouch™) can be confirmed as *T. foetus* or as *Trichomonas* spp. (non-*T. foetus*) by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

RMRAHL accepts *T. foetus* samples Monday through Friday, with culture results available in 5-7 days and PCR results in 1-3 days.

RMRAHL supplies InPouch™ TF kits for sample collection and can provide a protocol for sample submission. An instructional video on collecting *T. foetus* samples can be borrowed from the RMRAHL.

Airbills for overnight delivery are available for shipping samples to the laboratory at a reduced cost. Samples should be sent to the lab in insulated shipping containers. It is critical that samples are properly collected, maintained at room temperature, and received by the RMRAHL within the appropriate time frame.

*T. foetus* sample collection in Colorado can only be conducted for regulatory purposes by a veterinarian certified by the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office.

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