



Revised Colorado Trich Rule – January 2015

Over the last two years, the State Veterinarian's Office has been in discussion over possible trichomoniasis rule changes with veterinarians, livestock producers, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Livestock Association, and Western Dairy Association. It has resulted in new revised Livestock Disease Control Rules (8 CCR 1201-19) part of which contains the trichomoniasis rules. The new rule became effective December 30th, 2014.

Overall, the trich rule has not changed dramatically but there are some changes that will affect producers and veterinarians.

The main changes are:

1. *Official trich test:*

The official test for import into Colorado or for change of ownership within the state is the PCR test. Here is how it is worded: "Official T. Fetus PCR test (Polymerase Chain Reaction)" means a method approved by the State Veterinarian that detects, through in vitro amplification, the presence of T. fetus DNA. The previous rule allowed a trich culture for import of out-of-state bulls or for a change of ownership. Culture will be acceptable for annual diagnostic tests when used as part of a preventative herd health plan but is not considered an official test for regulatory purposes such as change of ownership, importation, or movement to a grazing association.

2. *Length of validity of trich test for change of ownership or importation into Colorado:*

The official trichomoniasis test is now applicable for 60 days prior to importation or change of ownership. The former rule stated the test was only valid for 30 days prior to importation or change of ownership.

3. *The test eligible age for bulls:*

The new rule requires that bulls over 18 months of age be tested for trichomoniasis whether they are bulls imported from out of state, bulls changing ownership, or bulls commingling in grazing associations. The previous rule required that bulls being imported into Colorado be tested if over 12 months of age and had some provision for virgin bull status.

4. *Identification and Laboratory Submission Forms:*

There are some additional requirements for official animal ID for bulls being tested for trichomoniasis. The new rule states that the accredited veterinarian shall record the bull's official animal ID eartag on the T. fetus test submission form or apply an official animal ID tag to any bull that does not have one and record it on the T. fetus test submission form. An approved laboratory is required to immediately report any positive specimen to the State Veterinarian's Office. Such report should include the official animal ID eartag, brand, owner name, address, telephone number and the submitting veterinarian's name, address, and telephone number.



If you have any questions on the changes to the rule, please call the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130 and ask to talk to one of the staff veterinarians or visit with one of our field veterinarians.

The new revised livestock disease rule is posted on the Colorado Department of Agriculture website, under the tab, Livestock Disease Info, and then click on Trichomoniasis. Here is the direct link: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals/laws-and-regulations-4>

In addition to changes to the trichomoniasis rules, other sections were slightly revised to reflect new federal animal disease traceability requirements and to represent the most current veterinary science related to disease prevention, surveillance, and transmission.