

Test herds for bovine trichomoniasis

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Colorado Department of Agriculture reminds cattle owners to test their herd for Bovine Trichomoniasis.

“Testing and monitoring herds for trichomoniasis is the best method of controlling this infection,” said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr. “Cattle owners should talk to their veterinarian to determine the best management practices for their herd.”

As of Nov. 29 there were three positive “trich” locations in Colorado, one of which is in northeastern Yuma County.

So far this year, nine Colorado counties have had positive trich cases: Conejos, Crowley, Fremont, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Rio Blanco, Saguache and Yuma.

A map detailing trichomoniasis sample submissions by county and the prevalence for trichomoniasis-positive counties can be found at www.colorado.gov/ag.

“The department has seen a decrease in the number of positive trich cases and is encouraged by these numbers; this shows that the livestock industry and the CDA mitigation efforts have been working,” continued Roehr, “but this doesn’t mean ranchers should decrease their testing rates. It is important to remember that this infection does not respect county lines.”

“Trich” is a costly, yet preventable, infection that can affect dairy and beef cattle. If bulls become infected, the percentage of open cows can increase from 5-30 percent.

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

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Colorado trich regulations require all non-virgin bulls changing ownership or being transported into Colorado be tested for *T. foetus* unless the animal is going to slaughter. Bulls on public land grazing permits or with grazing associations must also be tested prior to turn-out.

Several diagnostic laboratories across the state offer trich testing; samples must be taken by an accredited veterinarian. For testing questions call CDA Animal Industry Division at 303-239-4161.