

02.04.29 Rules Governing Trichomoniasis  
Minutes of March 15, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Hosts/Facilitators: Lloyd Knight, ISDA  
Dr. Scott Leibsle, ISDA  
Chanel Tewalt, ISDA

Stakeholders Present: Cameron Mulrony – Idaho Cattle Association  
Marv Patten – Milk Producers of Idaho  
Jeff Heins, DVM  
Travis Allen, DVM  
Garth Waddoups, DVM  
Wayne Cutler, DVM

Department Staff: Dr. Christie Hammons  
Dan Salmi, Bureau of Agricultural Labs  
Scott Barnes, DVM  
Dallas Burkhalter  
Katy Devries  
Pamm Juker  
Dr. Holly Holman  
Wyatt Naillon  
Laramie Leraistre

Lloyd Knight called meeting to order reviewed the rulemaking schedule and process. There is one comment submitted already.

Dr. Leibsle, State Veterinarian, provided a program summary, and then asked Dan Salmi to present a summary of lab tests and history of testing.

Dan Salmi presented a summary of lab tests as well as the history of testing.

- 2022 Idaho Trich Tests:
  - 28,370 bulls tested,
  - 20,618 PCR tests,
  - 7,752 culture tests.

Dr. Leibsle asked the group to have a discussion on the potential for eliminating trich cultures. There have been challenges in training, shipping, and lack of testing sensitivity (higher percentage of false positive tests). PCR eliminates the variables and can genetically identify the correct organism out of the sample. The time and resources are costly on cultures. Many states have already begun phasing out cultures and will no longer accept it as an import test. The mandatory Trich testing program in Idaho has been in place since 1989; Idaho was the first state to do so.

Dr. Waddoups believes it is time to move ahead and eliminate cultures.

Dr. Leibsle mentioned the availability of trich tags has become an issue during high testing times. ISDA is considering taking over the process by purchasing the tags for distribution directly from the manufacturer rather than through a distributor.

Dr. Leibsle presented the rule and potential edits. The language recommended for deletion is for consistency with the Red Tape Reduction Executive Order.

Dr. Leibsle reviewed the sections:

Section 004 Incorporation by Reference – The referenced protocol will need to be updated if the rule removes references to culture tests.

Section 010 Definitions

- All Bovidae – The import rule was changed to exempt bison for trich testing. This rule should change to be consistent. No additional comments.
- Remove Registered Veterinarians. The department has not facilitated registration in many years. There is a trich module offered by USDA/ISDA after the annual accreditation training, and videos are available on the web.

Section 100.01 Bulls in Public Grazing Allotments – The department recommends eliminating requirement to test 45 days prior to turnout as it is difficult to enforce. Dr. Heins felt it would be helpful to veterinarians if it were eliminated. In addition, it is recommended by the department that an allowance be included for electronic submission of the Test and Report Form.

Section 110 Trichomoniasis Testing Identification- The department recommends adding an annual color rotation order: White, Orange, Blue, Yellow and Green as a resource to locate colors for each testing season.

Section 200.03 – Dr. Leibsle asked for comments regarding culture tests and possible removal from the rule. Dr. Cutler commented that culture testing is more cost effective for small producers; the issue is with shipping, test missed very little. Dr. Cutler would like to keep culture testing. Dr. Leibsle stated PCR and culture testing in the remainder of the rule will be readdressed at the next meeting and written comments are encouraged.

Section 310 Infected Bulls and Herds – The department recommends simplification of the language.

Section 310.04 Testing of Infected Herds – Dr. Leibsle stated that using PCR for testing infected herds would expedite results. Dr. Cutler replied that there should be three negative results regardless of test, PCR or culture. Sometimes it is positive on third test. Prevalence and being picked up in scraping rather than number of tests. Dr. Allen felt it should be kept the same. Must have three negative tests to eliminate. It also discourages trading bulls out of sale barn.

Section 331 Official Trichomoniasis Tests – Dr. Leibsle again commented that the trich lab protocol in the Incorporation by Reference section would need to be updated if the rule is changed regarding the use of culture tests.

Section 400.04 Records Maintained – The department recommends adding language to include official ID with Trich tag of report submitted to ISDA. Dr. Allen and Dr. Cutler both expressed agreement with this additional language.

In reference to the possible elimination of culture tests, Dr. Allen added that shipping samples is part of problem. They can be shipped fresh or frozen. Dan Salmi commented that language could be incorporated that samples do not have to be shipped frozen just within a certain number of days.

No further comments noted. Lloyd Knight adjourned the meeting and reminded the group the second meeting will occur Wednesday, April 6.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.