



## **Trichomoniasis Update**

*By John Wenzel, Extension Veterinarian*

The New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) is holding a series of listening sessions around the state this winter to get input from cattle producers on bovine trichomoniasis, or trich. I was approached by a group of producers who felt like we had little control over the disease in some areas and that the program needed to be strengthened. I passed the request on to New Mexico's State Veterinarian, Dr. Ralph Zimmerman, and the NMLB decided to hold a series of listening sessions around the state to solicit producer input.

The first listening session was held in Belen in August, and since the initial meeting, several more have been held all over the state. Many producers with an interest in or opinion on this issue were present and voiced their opinion and many suggestions were discussed. The range of opinions stretched from "doing nothing" to "mandatory testing of all breeding bulls annually until the disease is eradicated". Most of the discussion was centered somewhere between these two suggestions and many suggestions were well thought out and presented and certainly most had merit for consideration. The purpose of these meetings are to get a feel for what the majority of producers want the Trich program to look like. With the number of meetings held so far, a picture of what the program may look like is beginning to take shape, but more meetings are planned and producers are encouraged to attend a meeting and voice their opinion.

Ultimately, any action the NMLB takes on this issue will depend on what comes out of these producer meetings. All of the comments made at the meetings have been recorded and will be summarized and tallied, then turned over to the NMLB's existing Trich committee for evaluation and discussion. If it is clear that the majority opinion consists of changes to the existing Trich control program, the Trich committee will present the requested changes to the NMLB for their consideration. If the NMLB agrees that the requested changes to the program have merit, then the usual Rule Change procedures will be implemented. While routine testing for Trichomoniasis is not mandatory in New Mexico, bulls that are sold in-state for breeding, all bulls over twelve months of age that are

imported into New Mexico and premises that are under a quarantine for the disease must meet mandatory testing requirements (see Title 21 Ch. 30 Part 6 of New Mexico's Livestock Code). An increase in mandatory testing in some form may or may not be included in the changes. If the summary opinion is that things are fine as they are, then not much will change.

The cost to producers of the disease is estimated at approximately \$400 per head in an infected herd, and producers have voiced "It's frustrating and expensive to invest in testing, get cleaned up, and then be re-infected from an unknown source or non-testing neighbor". Statewide, we have had good success in controlling the disease where it has been found, but we have large areas of New Mexico where little to no testing has occurred, so the disease status in those areas is unknown.

The New Mexico Livestock Board's website, [www.nmlbonline.com](http://www.nmlbonline.com), has additional meeting dates and locations listed. If you would like to host a Trich meeting in your area for your producers, you need to contact me or the NMLB to get one scheduled ASAP. Dr. Zimmerman would like to turn all of the public comments over to the Trich committee shortly after the first of the year so time is growing short for public comment.

John C Wenzel DVM Extension Veterinarian [jwenzel@nmsu.edu](mailto:jwenzel@nmsu.edu) 575-534-7562

### UPCOMING EVENTS

5-States Beef Symposium and BQA Training

Thursday, November 15 – Clayton, NM

Cattlemen's College

Wednesday, December 5 – Sandia Resort & Casino

Bernalillo, NM

Southwest Beef Symposium

January 16 – 17, Tucumcari Convention Center

Tucumcari, NM



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