



Oregon's requirements

- Oregon has mandatory Trich test requirements for all imported bulls and considers Trich a reportable disease.
- A test-positive herd will require all bulls tested of neighboring herds that were exposed by commingling or common fence line.
- Oregon has an official Trich tag. These tags are color coded for each Trich year, repeating colors every 5 years. An official USDA silver "brite" tag should accompany the Trich tag for traceability purposes.
- The Trich year is defined as Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.

Trich year	Tag color
2016	Green
2017	White
2018	Orange



Is my herd at risk for Trich?

A herd can be considered **high risk** under the following management situations:

- Addition of unknown "sale barn" cattle to the herd.
- Poor fences, commingling of cattle.
- Borrowing/leasing breeding bulls.
- Year-long bull turnout.
- Grazing cattle in common allotments.

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What you need to know about Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trich) in Oregon



Can your outfit handle the financial burden of Trich?

Oregon
Department
of Agriculture
Animal
Health Program





Trichomoniasis in beef cattle

Bovine Trich is a sexually transmitted disease of cattle that can cause abortion, low pregnancy rates, and prolonged calving seasons. The disease has been long standing to the Western United States causing economic loss to producers.

Cause: The agent involved is a protozoan parasite (*Trichomonas foetus*) that can survive and grow in the folds of the prepuce of the bull. Bulls rarely clear the parasite once infected, becoming long-term carriers. Cows that become infected will often clear the infection within 1 to 4 months, but remain a source of infection to breeding bulls at this time. Some infected cows may carry the infection into the next breeding season.

Spread: Infected bulls spread Trich by breeding activity. Clean bulls become infected from infected cows. Bull to bull infection is rare, and cow-to-cow infection does not occur.

Symptoms: Infected bulls show no symptoms. Uninfected herds should have majority of cows calving in the first 45 days of calving with proper

management. Infected herds may show an increase in open cattle, or cows calving mostly in the second half of the calving season.

Testing: Official testing requires that bulls be sampled, by a certified veterinarian, a minimum of 14 days following sexual rest. In Oregon a DNA test is available, known as a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test. This test can be run individually or on pooled samples containing up to 5 bulls. The lab does the pooling procedure. Pooled samples are for surveillance only and should not be used if Trich is highly suspected.

Treatment and vaccination: There is no approved treatment for Trich except culling for slaughter. A vaccine is available and tests indicate vaccinated females will clear an infection faster than unvaccinated females. At this time the vaccine has not been shown to protect bulls.

Danger to humans: Bovine Trich is not a food safety risk and is different than Trichinosis, a parasite found in animals that eat meat.

Control and prevention

- The Trich year is defined as Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.
- Minimize your risk by purchasing virgin or tested bulls.
- Do not borrow, rent, or buy untested bulls.
- Pregnancy check and cull open and late-calving cows. Culls should go to slaughter if Trich suspected in herd.
- Purchase females from reputable sources.
- Winter cows and bulls separately to minimize infection of bulls by late cycling cows.
- Producers using community pastures should implement and police biosecurity policies that help avoid the spread of Trichomoniasis.
- Check fences regularly to keep other animals out.
- Maintain good records to weed out potential problem cows.