Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission
Effective: October 14, 2011
Dewayne Kimbrell, Acting Director

Act 87 of 1963 (Code 2-33-101) and Act 150 of 1985 (Code 19-6-448) Agency 125.00

FINAL RULE

ARKANSAS REGULATION FOR TRICHOMONIASIS TESTING AND MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CATTLE

Definitions

The following words or terms, when used in this Subchapter, shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicated otherwise:

"**Acceptable specimen**" means a specimen determined satisfactory for diagnostic testing by the testing laboratory, including complete documentation.

"**Approved laboratory** means any laboratory designated and approved by the state veterinarian for examining T. foetus samples.

"**Approved veterinarian**" means an accredited veterinarian who is licensed and accredited in the state of Arkansas.

"**Bovine**" means any sexually intact male and female animal of the genus bos.

"**Change of ownership**" means control of an animal being transferred between two (2) persons by sale, lease, or lending.

"**Commingle**" means animals of opposite sex and belonging to different owners in the same enclosure or pasture with a reasonable opportunity for sexual contact.

"**Complete herd test**" means an official T. foetus test from each non-virgin bull in the herd.

"**Herd**" means the group of animals consisting of all male and female bovines over twelve (12) months of age that have commingled during the last twelve (12) months.

"**Official T. foetus laboratory testing**" means the laboratory procedures that shall be approved by the state veterinarian for culture and identification of T. foetus.

"**Official T. foetus bull test**" means the sampling of the preputial content of a bull by a licensed, accredited and trich test certified veterinarian or a veterinarian from the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. The test shall be conducted after a one week separation from

all female bovine and the bull and sample shall be positively and individually identified and documented for laboratory submission. The test may consist of three (3) culture tests one (1) week apart or one (1) PCR test.

"**Positive T. foetus bull**" means a bull that has had a positive T. foetus test.

"**Positive T. foetus bull herd**" means that group of all bovines which have had any opportunity for sexual contact in the previous breeding season and in which any male or female animal has had a positive diagnosis for T. foetus.

"**Negative T. foetus bull**" means a bull that qualifies by one of the following:

A. originate from a herd not known to be infected and has had a negative official T. foetus bull test within the last year;

B. originate from a positive herd but:

   1. Has a series of three negative official T. foetus bull tests at intervals of at least one week;
   2. Or a negative official T. foetus bull test within thirty (30) days prior to entry with no sexual activity for one (1) week prior to the test and between the test and movement.

"**Suspect T. foetus bull**" means a bull from a positive T. foetus herd that has not yet had three (3) consecutive negative official T. foetus bull tests.

"**Trichomonas (Tritrichomonas) foetus**" or "**T. foetus**" means a contagious venereal protozoan parasite disease of the trichomonas foetus species that frequently results in lifetime infection of male bovidae as an inapparent carrier and causes infertility, pyometra, abortions and reproductive inefficiency in female bovidae.

"**Unacceptable sample**" means a sample that is deemed not diagnostic by the official testing laboratory.

"**Virgin bull**" means a sexually intact male bovine less than twenty-four (24) months of age that has had no breeding and no potential breeding contact with females.

"**Virgin bull affidavit**" means a signed affidavit from the owner, manager, or veterinarian that verifies the bull has had no breeding and no potential breeding contact with females.

I. Import Requirements for Bulls

A. No bull that has tested positive for trichomoniasis shall be brought into this state for any purpose whatsoever.

B. No bull may be brought into this state without being accompanied by a negative test for trichomoniasis except for the following animals:

1. Exhibition and rodeo bulls that are temporarily in the state only for the purpose of the event and will be leaving the state after the event;
2. Bulls consigned to go directly to slaughter; and
3. Virgin bulls (under twenty-four (24) months of age).

C. A bull that is brought into this state without being accompanied by a negative test for trichomoniasis shall not be comingled with any cow unless the bull is tested and found to be negative for trichomoniasis prior to comingling.

D. All bulls, except exhibition and rodeo bulls, brought into this state shall be identified by one or more of the following means prior to importation:

1. Brucellosis ear tag;
2. Official 840 radio frequency identification device (RFID);
3. Official 840 flap or bangle tag;
4. Official individual animal breed registry brand;

E. Virgin bulls, other than exhibition and rodeo bulls, brought into this state shall, in addition to any other required documentation, be accompanied by a certification of virgin status signed by the owner of the bull, or the owner's representative or a duly authorized veterinarian. The certification shall include the bull's individual identification. If the owner seeking to import the virgin bull into this state acquired the bull from a breeder or another owner, a certification of virgin status signed by the breeder and each prior owner of the bull, or their representative, must also accompany the bull. The use of the Arkansas Virgin Bull Status form is required.

F. The requirements for trichomoniasis testing shall be three separate culture tests, each conducted not less than one week apart, or one (1) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test no more than thirty (30) days prior to entry of the bull into this state. All sample collections and inspection of bulls must be performed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian. Testing for trichomoniasis must be performed at/by an accredited/approved laboratory.

G. All bulls found to be positive for T. foetus must be taken to slaughter within two weeks on a VS-127. Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission must be notified of all positive bulls and the disposition of these bulls.

II. Intrastate Change of Ownership Requirements for Bulls

A. Any bull changing ownership within the state of Arkansas shall have a negative official T. foetus test within thirty (30) days prior to change of ownership with no exposure to females from seven (7) days prior to the test at the time of change of ownership.

B. Exceptions to this rule shall include the following:

1. Virgin bulls (under twenty-four (24) months of age)
2. A bull sold directly to slaughter;

   or

3. A bull sold for feeding and slaughter that will be castrated within seven (7) days of change of ownership.

C. Any bull presented for sale at a livestock auction market that is not a virgin bull or having verification of a negative official T. foetus test:

1. Shall be tagged for slaughter only and sold for slaughter on a VS 1-27 form;

   or

2. May go to the purchaser's destination so long as the market veterinarian takes a sample for an official T. foetus test and the purchaser agrees to keep the bull under quarantine at the destination until receipt of negative test results.

D. The market veterinarian shall be responsible for the sampling and results for an official T. foetus test performed at the livestock market.

E. All bulls found to be positive for T. foetus must be taken to slaughter within two weeks on a VS-127. Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission must be notified of all positive bulls and the disposition of these bulls.

III. Import Requirements for Reproductive Bovine Females

A. Female cattle or bison may enter Arkansas with no restrictions concerning Trichomoniasis unless originating from a known positive T. foetus herd.

B. A female bovine originating from a known positive T. foetus herd may enter Arkansas only upon a CVI with a statement that the female is from a known T. foetus infected herd pursuant to one of the following circumstances:

1. The female bovine has a calf at side and no exposure to other than known negative bulls since parturition;
2. The female bovine are at least one hundred twenty (120) days pregnant;
3. The female bovine are known to be virgin heifers;
4. The female bovine are heifers exposed only to known negative bulls and are not yet one hundred twenty (120) days pregnant;
5. The female bovine are documented to have had at least one hundred twenty (120) days of sexual isolation; or
6. The female bovine are consigned directly to slaughter or to a quarantined feedlot.

IV. Exceptions

The state veterinarian may grant a written exception to this rule only on an individual basis.

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