

# California Trichomonosis Control Program: Proposed Changes

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Last month, we discussed the first three years of the California Trichomonosis Control Program. Despite the overwhelming general support and the acceptance by producers, one problem that has been highlighted is the repeat infections in herds adopting good preventive practices. It is apparent that in some locales herds are being continually re-infected by some neighboring operations.

The CCA membership has also adopted policy that support these changes and they have been joined by other organizations such as the Farm Bureau. We will review the proposed changes in this month's column.

There are a number of areas in the control program where changes are proposed:

- Importation of bulls
- Pasture-to-pasture herd movements
- Public sale of bulls
- Sampling by veterinarians
- Laboratory certification
- Confirmatory tests of lab results
- Investigation and mandatory testing of neighboring at-risk herds
- Disposition of infected cattle

## What are the proposed regulations for imported bulls?

First, bulls 18 months of age or older must have the following:

- Official individual animal identification
- An interstate entry permit number
- A negative Trichomonosis test result (collected after 10 days of sexual rest and within 60 days of entry into California)
- A health certificate (Certificate of

Veterinary Inspection) which states:

(a) The bull(s) is Trichomonosis test negative and has not had sexual contact since their last negative test.

(b) Trichomonosis has not been diagnosed in the herd within the last 24 months.

(c) A bull originating from a herd that has had Trichomonosis diagnosed within the last 24 months must have three (3) negative tests conducted at least 7 days apart and not more than 28 days apart, with the last test conducted within 60 days prior to entry.

These same requirements must also be met by bulls entering California for sales purposes.

**What about pasture-to-pasture movements of bulls?** Bulls as part of a pasture-to-pasture permitted herd must have one negative test within the 12 months prior to entry. The permit must include the date of the test, negative test results, and the name and contact information of the testing veterinarian.

**Are there any exemptions for import testing of bulls?** Yes, bulls that are to be used solely for exhibition purposes (rodeo bulls for example) may be exempt from import testing. However, these exhibition bulls must be confined to the location of the exhibition without having access to, or being allowed to commingle with sexually mature female cattle.

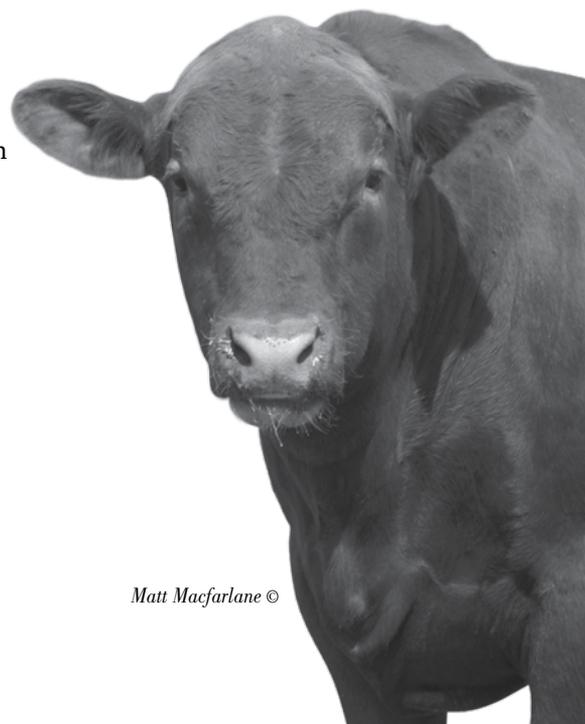
Secondly, bulls that are being used solely for artificial insemination and housed under protocols that meet the Certified Semen Services standards may be exempt from the testing requirements. A third possibility is an

exemption for bulls consigned directly to slaughter without unloading prior to arrival at the slaughter plant.

**What about bulls sold at public auctions within California?** Bulls 18 months of age or older sold through a public livestock market shall be sold only to slaughter or to a feedlot designated only for slaughter unless accompanied by a negative Trichomonosis test result from a sample taken by a Trichomonosis approved veterinarian within 30 days prior to sale.

Additionally, public salesyards shall post a sign saying "All bulls 18 months of age and over sold for breeding must have a negative Trichomonosis test or consigned as slaughter only."

**How is Trichomonosis testing done?** Only United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited California licensed veterinarians can take samples from cattle for Trichomonosis testing. These



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veterinarians must also successfully complete a training program approved by CDFA for sampling and handling specimens used in the diagnosis of Trichomonosis.

Any testing, reading or diagnosis of Trichomonosis must be performed in an approved laboratory under the direction of a person approved by CDFA to perform these activities. CDFA will also maintain a list of certified veterinarians and approved laboratories. It is important to note that all Trichomonosis tests are official tests and both presumptive and confirmatory tests must be reported.

**What will happen when infected cattle are identified?** First, the state veterinarian will impose quarantine on any positive animals (infected bulls or infected females) and any Trichomonosis infected cattle will be held on the premises where found and movement may be allowed only under written confirmation by CDFA.

Infected cattle can only be moved to slaughter, through a public auction to slaughter, or to a certified feedlot for feeding prior to slaughter. Written

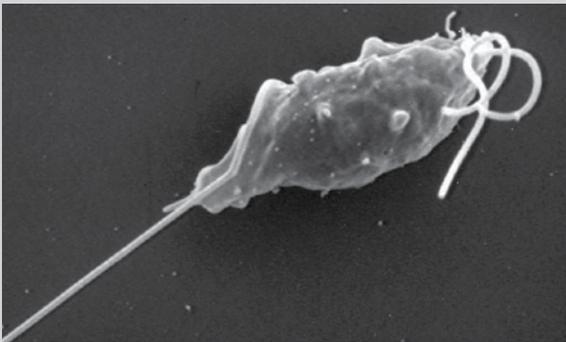
confirmation of the slaughter is required. In the infected herd, all herdmate bulls shall be held on the premises until three (3) negative tests are completed and any cattle determined to be infected will be handled as mentioned above.

**What about neighboring herds that might have been exposed?**

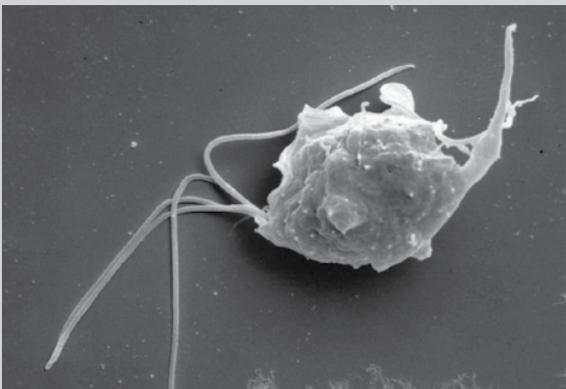
CDFA veterinarians will conduct an epidemiological evaluation to identify exposed herds. All herdmate bulls in a Trichomonosis exposed herd shall be held on the premises where found until one (1) negative Trichomonosis test is completed. Any infected cattle will be handled as in any infected herd. The testing in exposed herds will be at the owner's expense.

If the proposed changes are adopted it will give veterinary professionals the necessary tools to clean up Trichomonosis in a given locale and prevent "spillover" infections from continually occurring. The California Trichomonosis Control Program will be reviewed constantly by CCA and other producer groups. CCA and CDFA welcome all comments and suggestions.

## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



Scanning electron micrograph of *Tritrichomonas fetus* (the pathogenic organism that causes fetal losses and Trichomonosis).



Scanning electron micrograph of a non-pathogenic trichomonad with 4 flagellae (tetratrachomonad).