

For Your Information

Courtesy Of:

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Trichomoniasis: Management is the Key to Prevention

Bull Management

Bull management is one of the best ways to control the spread and incidence of Trichomoniasis.

- Buy only virgin bulls. Do not lease or use loaner bulls.
- Use virgin bulls with virgin heifers
- Separate young bulls from older bulls.
- Keep breeding season short to diminish the severity of bull-transmitted Trichomoniasis.
- Test each bull if a problem is suspected in the herd.
- Separate bulls from cows after breeding until after calving.
- Isolate suspected bulls from the cow herd until tested (minimum of 10 days)
- Isolate bulls accidentally exposed to other cows, then test 2 weeks before putting the bull back with the cows.

Cow management

Managing the cow herd is equally important. Cows pass the infection back to non infected bulls.

- Use home-raised cows.
- Purchased cows should have a calf at side or be at least 4 months pregnant.
- At preg-check time, note all open or early pregnancy cows. Isolate early pregnancy cows and observe for abortions.
- Cull open cows and observe those under 4 months pregnant.
- Breed cows at home and preg-check them before sending them to co-mingled pastures.
- To prevent recontamination, do not mix fall calvers with spring calvers.
- Isolate cows exposed to other bulls.
- Identify and cull chronic carrier cows that repeatedly abort, conceive again and deliver live calves.

Vaccination

- Vaccine does not prevent infection. It just controls the disease. Only use vaccine when infection is present or when grazing in common with infected animals.
- The vaccine in the bull delays chronic infection, but the bull is still infected. Vaccine must be given before the breeding season.
- Two shots given two weeks apart and the second shot must be given one month before breeding starts.