



### **Ag Policy General Session**

*Tritrichomonos Foetus: What We Need to Know to Protect Our Herds, Dr. Jennifer Koziol, DVM, MS, DACT*

*Albuquerque, NM—2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention:  
Transforming Challenges into Opportunities*

#### **Summary:**

Trich has been around for a long time. The infection occurs in the obligate parasite of the bovine reproductive tract. It is localized to the bull's penis, prepuce, and distal urethra. He has a minimal immune response, so his body will never clear the infection.

The females are where the industry can experience an economic decline. When infection is introduced to the cervix, it can travel through the cervix and colonizes the entire reproductive tract. Embryonic death, irregular return to estrus, pyometra, and abortion are the issues that can come about because of this infection. Immunity only lasts about 15 months in females. Test anytime a neighbor bull is in your pasture and when your bulls come in and out of your pasture.

Transportation conditions can have a substantial impact on the results of tests. Extreme cold and extreme heat can impact the quality of the sample. The PCR test only needs about two organisms to pick up a positive. Females can be tested through a vaginal mucus sample, but they can clear the infection in six weeks, so it's unreliable unless she has developed a pyometra.

#### **Key Points:**

1. The bulls will likely be asymptomatic. Test and retest.
2. Once a bull contracts trich, the bull will be in a chronic carrier state. It is best to cull immediately.
3. The accuracy of detection depends on sample quality.
4. TrichGuard is the only vaccine on the market.
5. Know the risks of your area and know the biosecurity.

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