

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Agriculture and Forestry Board of Animal Health

Trichomoniasis (LAC 7:XXI.101, 121, and 339)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, specifically R.S. 49:953 (B), and under the authority of R.S. 3:2093, 3:2095, and 3:2097 the Louisiana Board of Animal Health declares an emergency to exist and adopts by emergency process the attached regulations for the reporting of trichomoniasis in cattle, restrictions on the entry of bulls into Louisiana, the testing of bulls for trichomoniasis and the movement of bulls testing positive for trichomoniasis. Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease of cattle caused by *Tritrichomonas foetus*, a protozoal parasite. Trichomoniasis causes early embryonic death of the fetus, usually in the first 30 to 90 days of pregnancy, but may cause late term abortion. The parasite is carried by bulls and is passed to cows during breeding. The parasite is almost impossible to detect in cows and is difficult to detect in bulls. The parasite may be transmitted from the cow to her calf during birthing.

Infected herds have had up to a 55 percent decrease in the number of calves being born. The financial losses caused by trichomoniasis are substantial. The Louisiana cattle industry has approximately 420,000 breeding age cows and 25,600 bulls. Based on this number of cows the calving rate is approximately 85 percent, for a total of 544,000 calves a year. A breeding cow will sell, on average, for approximately \$1,200 and a breeding bull will sell, on average for approximately \$2,000. A calf will sell, on average, for \$500. A cow or bull sold for slaughter will bring, on average, \$500. If Louisiana's cattle become infected statewide with trichomoniasis it is conservatively estimated that 50 percent of the cows and bulls will be infected and that the calving rate will decrease to a 50 percent birthing rate. Based on this estimate the Louisiana cattle industry would lose \$112 million from unborn calves, \$22.4 million from the sale of infected breeding cows for slaughter rather than as a breeder, and \$19.2 million from the sale of infected bulls for slaughter, rather than as a breeding bull. The cost for replacing the infected cows and bulls with cows and bulls capable of breeding immediately would be \$38.4 million for replacement cows and \$25.6 million for replacement bulls. The cost for testing bulls is a minimum of \$100. The vaccine for cows is approximately \$10 for the vaccination and \$5 for each yearly booster. Thus the cost of testing all bulls in the state would be \$2.56 million. The vaccination for cows would cost \$6.4 million initially and \$3.2 million yearly thereafter based on 640,000 breeding cows per year. As an example, the owners of a Louisiana herd of 3,000 cattle infected with trichomoniasis has suffered over \$1 million in one year in financial losses from the cost of testing, destruction of infected bulls and cows, replacement animals, and reductions in the calf crop.

The threat posed by trichomoniasis is real and immediate and creates an imminent peril to the public welfare of the citizens of this state, the viability of Louisiana's cattle industry and to the health and safety of the cattle in this state, thereby requiring the promulgation of these emergency regulations. This Emergency Rule becomes effective upon the signature of the Commissioner and shall remain in effect

for 120 days, unless renewed or until the permanent rules and regulations become effective.

Title 7

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS

Part XXI. Diseases of Animals

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§101. Definitions

APHIS—the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Bull—an uncastrated male of domestic cattle.

Breeding Bull—a bull less than 24 months of age in which there is no presence of both permanent central incisor teeth in wear if the bull has been commingled with breeding females; a bull less than 24 months of age in which there is the presence of both permanent central incisor teeth in wear; and a bull that is 24 months of age or older.

Virgin Bull—a bull less than 24 months of age in which both permanent central incisor teeth in wear are not present and that has never been commingled with breeding females.

Commissioner—the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

Department—the department of agriculture and forestry

Slaughter Permit—an official document issued by an authorized agent of the department, a representative of APHIS veterinary services, or an accredited veterinarian that is required to accompany any animal that is a reactor, or suspect or exposed to a disease, and the animal is required to be taken to slaughter. The slaughter permit shall list the tag number of all reactors, the official ear tag number of all suspect or exposed animals, the owner's name and address, the origin and destination locations, number of animals covered, and the purpose of the movement. If a change in destination becomes necessary, a new permit shall be issued by authorized personnel. No diversion from the destination on the permit is allowed.

Trichomoniasis—a venereal disease of cattle caused by *Tritrichomonas foetus*, a protozoal parasite

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2093.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Sanitary Board, LR 11:230 (March 1985), amended LR 11:615 (June 1985), LR 12:289 (May 1986), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Livestock Sanitary Board, LR 12:498 (August 1986), LR 14:217 (April 1988), LR 15:811 (October 1989), LR 16:391 (May 1990), LR 17:29 (January 1991), LR 18:840 (August 1992), LR 23:949 (August 1997), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of the Commissioner, LR 24:1677 (September 1998), LR 28:1170 (June 2002), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Animal Health, LR 34:2336 (November 2008), LR 35:

§121. Requiring the Reporting of Contagious Diseases

A. All veterinarians practicing veterinary medicine in this state shall report any of the diseases listed in this Section to the state veterinarian within 24 hours after making a diagnosis or tentative diagnosis of any such disease. The report may be made by telephone, fax, or electronic mail. The reportable diseases are: classical swine fever (hog

cholera), anthrax, vesicular conditions, all equine encephalomyelitis conditions, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (including chronic wasting disease, scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy), pseudorabies (Aujeszky's Disease), tuberculosis, Brucellosis, rabies, strangles (*Streptococcus equi equi*), equine herpes virus 1, equine viral arteritis, spring viremia of carp, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, Newcastle disease and other paramyxovirus infections, avian influenza (highly pathogenic), ornithosis (chlamydiosis, psittacosis), Salmonellas (pullorum disease or fowl typhoid), infectious laryngotracheitis (other than vaccine induced), trichomoniasis, any disease classified by USDA as a foreign animal disease, or any other disease condition which may seriously threaten the any animal population of this state.

B. - E. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2093, R.S. 3:2094 and R.S. 3:2095.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Sanitary Board, LR 11:234 (March 1985), amended LR 11:615 (June 1985), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Livestock Sanitary Board, LR 15:813 (October 1989), LR 16:391 (May 1990), LR 23:197 (February 1997), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of the Commissioner, LR 28:1170 (June 2002), LR 29:1460 (August 2003), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Animal Health, LR 34:2337 (November 2008), LR 35:

Chapter 3. Cattle

§339. Trichomoniasis Testing and Movement

Requirements for Cattle

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.

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;
5. official individual animal breed registry tattoo; or an
6. official state of origin Trichomoniasis tag.

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 then a certification of virgin status signed by the breeder and each

prior owner of the bull, or their representative must also accompany the bull.

F. The requirements for testing bulls for trichomoniasis, whether in this state or to be imported into this state, are as follows:

1. all samples to be submitted for testing for Trichomoniasis shall be drawn by a certified accredited veterinarian.

2. the testing of samples shall be performed at an official laboratory or by a certified accredited veterinarian, qualified to test for Trichomoniasis.

3. three separate official culture tests, each conducted not less than one week apart, or one Polymerase Chain Reaction test (PCR) shall be performed, no more than 30 days prior to entry of the bull into this state. Test samples shall not be pooled. A bull undergoing the three separate official culture tests must test negative on each such test to be considered free of trichomoniasis.

4. a positive result on any test shall immediately cause the bull to be classified as a trichomoniasis infected bull subject to the restrictions set out in these regulations.

5. a PCR test to confirm the presence of trichomoniasis may be requested in the event of a positive result on a test, but the request for the confirmatory test must be made within 5 days of notification of the positive test result.

a. If the confirming PCR test comes back negative then the bull is considered negative for trichomoniasis and may be moved as a negative bull.

b. If the confirming PCR test comes back positive then the bull shall be considered to be infected and subject to the restrictions set out in these regulations.

6. Bulls being tested for trichomoniasis shall be kept separate from female cattle at all times during the entire test period and from the completion of the test until importation into this state.

7. All test results for trichomoniasis, whether negative or positive, shall be reported to the state veterinarian within 24 hours after receipt of the results. When a positive test result is received the treating veterinarian shall consult with the state veterinarian on the first business day after receipt of the test results to determine a plan of action regarding the animal testing positive.

D. Bulls in Louisiana testing positive for trichomoniasis shall be subject to the following restrictions.

1. If a confirming PCR test is timely requested then the bull testing positive shall be segregated from all other cattle until the PCR test results are received.

2. A bull that has tested positive for trichomoniasis for which no confirming PCR test has been timely requested or which is confirmed by the PCR test to be infected with trichomoniasis shall be immediately isolated from and kept isolated from all other cattle, except for other known infected bulls and shall not be moved except as provided in these regulations.

3. An infected bull shall be moved directly to slaughter, or sold directly for slaughter through a livestock market, within 30 days from receipt of the positive results of the original test or the results of the confirming PCR test, whichever is later.

a. Movement of an infected bull shall be under a VS 1-27 permit issued by the testing veterinarian or the state veterinarian or his representative.

b. The VS 1-27 permit shall accompany the bull upon movement of the animal.

4. If an infected bull has been in a herd with other breeding bulls then the other breeding bulls shall automatically be under quarantine until they have tested negative for trichomoniasis.

a. All of the other breeding bulls shall be immediately separated from, and kept separate from, all female cattle and from all virgin bulls or other breeding bulls that have tested negative for trichomoniasis.

b. Each breeding bull that has been in a herd with an infected bull shall be tested for trichomoniasis.

c. Two PCR tests conducted at least seven days apart or three separate official culture tests, each conducted not less than one week apart, shall be performed on each bull. Test samples shall not be pooled. Each test conducted on a bull must show a negative result before the tested bull can be declared to be free of Trichomoniasis.

d. A bull that has tested negative shall be immediately removed from all of the other bulls that have not been tested, or for which the test results have not been received and shall be free of the hold or do not remove order.

e. A positive result on any test shall immediately cause the tested bull to be classified as a Trichomoniasis infected bull subject to the restrictions set out in these regulations.

f. A PCR test to confirm the presence of Trichomoniasis may be requested in the event of a positive result on a culture test, but the request for the confirmatory test must be made within 5 days of notification of the positive test result.

i. If the confirming PCR test comes back negative then the bull is considered negative for trichomoniasis and may be moved as a negative bull

ii. If the confirming PCR test comes back positive then the bull shall be considered to be infected and subject to the restrictions set out in these regulations.

E. A virgin bull or breeding bull that has tested negative for trichomoniasis but which has been comingled with cows that come from a known trichomoniasis infected herd shall not be moved to a herd not known to be infected or comingled with cows from such a herd unless the bull has been tested for trichomoniasis and has negative test results.

F. A violation of these regulations shall subject the violator to the following actions:

1. imposition by the board of a maximum \$1,000 civil penalty for each violation, with each day being a separate violation, as provided by R.S. 3:2093 if the violation does not involve the bringing of infected bulls into this state or the transportation of infected bulls through or within this state.

2. imposition by the board of a maximum \$5,000 civil penalty for each violation, with each day being a separate violation, as provide by R.S. 3:2097, if the violation involves the bringing of infected bulls into this state or the transportation of infected bulls through or within this state.

3. criminal prosecution under R.S. 3:2097 if the violation involves the bringing of infected bulls into this state or the transportation of infected bulls through this state, or within this state without a VS-127; conviction of which subjects the violator to a fine of not less that \$5,000 but not more that \$25,000, or imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not less than 1 year but not more than 10 years, or both.

4. criminal prosecution under R.S. 14:133 if the violation involves the filing of a false public record; conviction of which subjects the violator to a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than 5 years with or without hard labor, or both.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2093, 3:2095, and 3:2097.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Animal Health, LR 35:

Mike Strain, DVM
Commissioner

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