

Washington's Trichomoniasis (Trich) Ear Tag Requirements

Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease that can be highly contagious among cattle and does not cause any clinical illness in the dam or the sire but does interfere with the reproductive cycle. Without testing, a rancher would not know the disease is present in the herd until there are very few calves to sell or many cows calving very late in the season.

Washington's Bovine Trichomoniasis import test program began October 1, 2008 with a mandatory Trichomoniasis ear tag identification requirement for all imported virgin bulls and bulls tested for Trichomoniasis if they originate in a state with a Trichomoniasis program. Bulls from states without a Trichomoniasis program must have official individual identification unique to each animal.

Washington State has an official Trichomoniasis ear tag for Washington bulls leaving the state to meet destination testing requirements. It is tamperproof, 3" wide x 2 1/4" tall with a self piercing male button printed with WA and the current Trich year. The female portion of the tag will have WA TRICH printed above a 4 or 5 digit number.

The Trichomoniasis year is defined as September 1 - August 31, so application of the appropriate tag will change each year on September 1. For example, beginning September 1, 2009, the appropriate tag for bulls tested from that date through August 31, 2010 will be YELLOW, indicate WA10 on the button, and WA TRICH with a 4 or 5 digit number on the face. Washington numbering protocol will begin with 0001 and display the four digit number until 9999 is reached. After 9999 is reached, a five digit number will be displayed. The 4-digit number is easier to read until the fifth digit is needed.

Tags meeting the identification requirement are in stock at MWI Veterinary Supply (1-800-824-3703, specify TRICH TAG WASHINGTON) and available for immediate shipment. The tags come in bags of 25 at a cost of \$25 per bag. Due to the very specific nature of these tags, they are non returnable to the supplier.

Tag colors will change on September 1 of each Trichomoniasis year according to the chart below. Previous year Trichomoniasis tags should be removed and replaced with the tag consistent with the current year's test. Continuity of identification of the bull from year to year should be maintained either using other individual animal identification such as a ranch tag, tattoo, brucellosis's alphanumeric ID tag or RFID tag.

Trich Year	Test Period	Tag Color
2010	September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010	Yellow
2011	September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011	Green
2012	September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012	White
2013	September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013	Orange
2014	September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014	Blue

WAC 16-54-086 Bovine Trichomoniasis Testing Import Requirements

(1) Breeding bulls may be imported into the state of Washington if they meet the following requirements:

(a) The bulls originate from a herd wherein all bulls have tested negative for bovine Trichomoniasis since they were removed from female cattle; and

(b) The bulls have tested negative to a bovine Trichomoniasis culture test within thirty days before import and have had no contact with female cattle from the time of the test to the time of import; or

(c) If the bulls originate from a herd where one or more bulls or cows have been found infected with bovine Trichomoniasis within the past twelve months, the bulls must have three consecutive negative bovine Trichomoniasis culture tests one week apart or one negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. The samples for each test must be collected within thirty days before cattle are imported into Washington state, and an import permit must be obtained from the director and include a certifying statement that the bulls originated from an infected herd.

(2) Before arrival at their destination in Washington state, all imported bulls must be identified with official identification or an official Trichomoniasis bangle tag.

(3) Bulls that enter Washington state without meeting the bovine Trichomoniasis requirements of this section will be quarantined at the owner's expense until they have had three consecutive negative bovine Trichomoniasis culture tests one week apart or one negative PCR test.

(4)(a) Any bull or cow that is positive to a Trichomoniasis culture test, and any herd in which one or more bulls or cows are found infected with Trichomoniasis is considered infected.

(b) In the case of bulls testing positive to Trichomoniasis, the herd shall be quarantined pending an epidemiological investigation to determine the source of the infection, and as long as infection persists in the herd.

(c) Infected bulls will be quarantined and will not be used for breeding. They must be slaughtered, sold for slaughter, or sent to a restricted feedlot to remain in slaughter channels.

(5) Certification and proficiency testing and types of tests. The state veterinarian will determine Trichomoniasis training for veterinarians and laboratories, and the types of tests used to determine Trichomoniasis infection.

(a) Only veterinarians registered with WSDA shall collect samples for official tests for Trichomoniasis. Prior to being granted registered status, all veterinarians who will collect samples for Trichomoniasis testing shall attend an educational seminar conducted by the animal services division on Trichomoniasis and proper sample collection techniques.

(b) Registered veterinarians shall only utilize official laboratories recognized by the state veterinarian for culture of Trichomoniasis samples.

(c) Registered veterinarians shall submit results of all Trichomoniasis tests and all official identification on official Trichomoniasis test and report forms to the animal services division within five business days of receiving test results from an official laboratory or identifying virgin bulls with official Trichomoniasis bangle tags.

(d)(i) Polymerase chain reaction is accepted as an official test when completed by a qualified laboratory approved by the director and when the sample is received by the laboratory within forty-eight hours of collection.

(ii) Other tests for Trichomoniasis may be approved as official tests by the state veterinarian after the tests have been proven effective by research, have been evaluated sufficiently to determine efficacy, and a protocol for use of the test has been established.

(iii) An official test is one in which the sample is received in the official laboratory in good condition within forty-eight hours of collection. Samples in transit for more than forty-eight hours will not be accepted for official testing and must be discarded. Samples that have been frozen or exposed to high temperatures must also be discarded.

Exemptions to bovine Trichomoniasis test requirements.

(6) Virgin bulls are exempt from bovine Trichomoniasis test requirements. If sold, virgin bulls must be accompanied by a certificate signed by the owner or the owner's designee that they have had no breeding contact with female cattle.

NOTE: "Virgin bull" means a sexually active male bovine less than twelve months of age or a sexually intact male bovine between twelve and twenty-four months of age that is certified by the owner or the owner's designee as having had no breeding contact with female cattle.