

March 4, 2015  
Board of Agriculture Update  
Animal Industry Division  
Flint Wright, Administrator

1. Retest of Bulls with Inconclusive results for Trichomoniasis on PCR

Currently owners of bulls with inconclusive PCR results have the option of retesting them or sending them to slaughter. In herds of unknown status, this may result in these herds being treated as negative. When this occurs, no follow up on potential contact herds is occurring. It would be in the best interest of the program to treat bulls with inconclusive tests as follows:

- Inconclusive results following identification of the parasite by examination of inpouch samples will be classified as positive. Follow up epidemiologic investigation will occur.
- Bulls with inconclusive results in herds of unknown status will be required to be retested within 2 to 4 weeks. The herd will remain under hold order pending the test results. A positive or inclusive result on the 2<sup>nd</sup> test will result in the herd being classified as positive. Follow up epidemiologic investigation will occur.
- In a herd with positive bulls, those with inconclusive results can be sent to slaughter or retested at the owner's discretion. A positive or inclusive result on the 2<sup>nd</sup> test will result in the bull being classified as positive, requiring that it be sold to slaughter.

2. Hold Order Administration

Herds under hold order, as a contact herd, currently have a 12 month period of time in which to test their bulls. Individuals who do not need to move their adult cattle, may not see any reason to test. There is no penalty in place that would give some individuals incentive test. The following proposal would correct that.

- Herd owners who have not tested as required within the mandated period, would be placed under quarantine. This would not allow the movement of any cattle including stockers to be moved from the premises. The quarantine would only be removed following a negative test of all bulls or, in the event of one or more positive bulls, the sale for slaughter of those positive bulls.
- It would also apply to owners of positive herds who have 30 days to sell their positive bulls and perform testing on remaining bulls, as required. Extenuating circumstances would be taken into consideration when determining whether or not a quarantine is indicated.

**NAC 571.658 Exposed herd: Classification; placement under and release from hold order; lease and transfer of ownership; release to slaughter channel. ([NRS 561.295](#), [571.120](#), [571.150](#), [571.170](#))**

1. If, through an epidemiological investigation, a trichomonosis epidemiologist determines that a neighboring herd has had contact with an infected bull, the Director will classify the herd as an exposed herd and place it under a hold order.
2. Before the Director releases an exposed herd from a hold order, an accredited veterinarian must ensure that:
  - (a) Each test eligible bull in the exposed herd receives an official test for trichomonosis ~~within 12~~ **within 6** months after the herd was placed under a hold order;
  - (b) Each test eligible bull is determined to be clear of trichomonosis or is released to a slaughter channel;
  - (c) Each test eligible bull receives and bears an official tag; and
  - (d) The official tag number and classification of each test eligible bull is recorded on a test chart.
3. Before a test eligible bull may be certified to be clear of trichomonosis pursuant to subsection 2, the test eligible bull must have received a negative test result in its most recent official test for trichomonosis.
4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, the owner or lessee of an exposed herd shall not lease or transfer ownership of any bull or cow, or any heifer that is 20 months of age or older, from the herd during a period in which the herd is under a hold order.
5. The owner or lessee of an exposed herd may release any cattle from the herd to a slaughter channel. If an owner or lessee releases any cattle from the herd to a slaughter channel, the owner or lessee must provide documentation, on a form approved by the Administrator, to the Department that the cattle arrived at the slaughter channel.

(Added to NAC by St. Quarantine Officer by R135-06, eff. 3-23-2007; A by R208-08, 2-11-2009)

### 3. Brucellosis Calfhood Vaccination

**NAC 571.355 Vaccination of female cattle or bison before change of ownership.** ([NRS 571.120](#), [571.150](#))

Female cattle or bison that are more than 12 months of age must be vaccinated for brucellosis before any change of ownership occurs in Nevada unless the cattle or bison are:

1. Identified as spayed females in a manner approved by the Administrator;
2. Sold for slaughter directly to or through a sales yard that is approved by the Administrator;
- 3. At least 4 months of age and less than 12 months of age and must be official calfhood vaccinates prior to sale at livestock sales facilities in Nevada or cattle must be sold directly to facilities approved by the Nevada Department of Agriculture for feeding;**
4. Veterinary Presence at Livestock Markets on Sale Day

Current rules do not require veterinarians to be present on days when sales are held. Obviously, one must be available to conduct the activities required of accredited veterinarians. Under this scenario, animals with a serious contagious disease are more likely to go undetected and potentially disseminate that disease.

- In order to facilitate adequate disease surveillance and to insure that proper procedures are followed for animal movement after the sale, it will be required that an accredited veterinarian be present on sale days for at least 2 hours in order to make an assessment of the health status of animals at the sale and perform other duties as needed. Any additional amount of time required, if any, will be dependent on what activities the veterinarian must perform on that day.

**NAC 573.060 Veterinary Presence at Livestock Markets on Sale Day**

An accredited veterinarian must be present on sale days for all public livestock auctions. . ([NRS 573.010](#), NRS 638.011, NAC 571.602)

1. **Veterinarian must be present for at least 2 hours to assess animal health status;**
2. **Failure to have a proper accredited veterinarian present makes the operator of the auction responsible for any fines issued by the Department. Continued failure may be considered cause for the revocation of a regularly scheduled sale day.**