



For Immediate Release
October 7, 2022

TAHC Rule Proposal Open for Public Comment

Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting July 26, 2022, at its headquarters in Austin.

The following rule was proposed during the meeting and is open for comment from October 7 – November 7, 2022.

Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis

The TAHC proposed amendments to §§38.1, 38.2, 38.3, 38.4, 38.6 and 38.8 to clarify, correct and update information and procedures regarding the Trichomoniasis program and testing requirements.

The proposed amendment to §38.1, Definitions, amends the definition of “Certified Veterinarian” and “Official Laboratory Pooled Trichomoniasis test samples.” The term “Certified Veterinarian” was amended to add that a certified veterinarian must meet the requirements and have authorized personnel status as listed in 4 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 47. The term “Official Laboratory Pooled Trichomoniasis test samples” was updated to clarify the laboratory can pool samples for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing only. Other non-substantive updates were made to the section to improve understanding and readability.

The proposed amendments to §38.2, General Requirements, clarifies Trichomoniasis testing requirements and timeframes. The amendments to §38.2(c) specify that requests for confirmatory testing be in writing to the TAHC Region Director and confirmatory testing must be conducted within 30 days after the date of the original test. Other non-substantive organizational changes to improve readability were made to the subsection. To reduce confusion, the amendment to §38.2(d)(2) changes the term “approved feedlot” to “Trichomoniasis certified facility” because the term “approved feedyard” has a different application and requirements that are more commonly associated with disease control efforts related to Tuberculosis and Brucellosis. The amendment to §38.2(d)(3) specifies a seven-day timeframe to initiate the test for untested bulls purchased to change status from a slaughter bull to a breeding bull.

The proposed amendments to §38.3, Infected Herds, corrects and clarifies terminology, and requires additional testing for bulls that are part of an infected herd. The amendment to §38.3(a) corrects terminology and clarifies that breeding bulls “which test positive for Trichomoniasis” as



opposed to “have been disclosed as reactor” may be retested under certain conditions. The same provision clarifies that to be released from hold order or quarantine, a bull that is retested must have two consecutive negative PCR tests within 30 days of the initial test. The proposal adds §38.3(e) to require all bulls that are part of a herd one year after the date the hold order or quarantine on the herd was released to be officially tested for Trichomoniasis. The provisions that follow the addition were renumbered accordingly. Multiple amendments to Chapter 38, including §38.2, clarifies that PCR testing is conducted as opposed to RT PCR. Other non-substantive updates or grammatical corrections were made to the section to improve readability.

The proposed amendments to §38.4, Certified Veterinary Practitioners, changes §38.4(a) to align with the amended definition of “Certified Veterinarians” in §38.1 and authorized personnel status requirements in 4 TAC Chapter 47.

The proposed amendments to §38.6, Official Trichomoniasis Tests, changes §38.6(1)(B) to allow Trichomoniasis samples to be submitted in sterile saline, in addition to phosphate buffered saline. Additionally, the transport time to the laboratory was increased from 96 to 120 hours, and the recognition of Trichomoniasis samples pooled at the laboratory at a ratio of up to five individually collected samples pooled for one test may qualify as official tests. To promote understanding and compliance, the amendment specifies that veterinary practitioners may not submit pooled samples for an official test.

The proposed amendments to §38.8, Herd Certification Program--Breeding Bulls, provides and italicizes the full scientific name of Trichomoniasis, *Trichomonas foetus*. The proposed amendments update the term throughout Chapter 38.

Comments on the proposed rules must be submitted in writing to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512)-719-0719 or by email to comments@tahc.texas.gov.

Complete details of the rule proposals are available on the TAHC website at <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html#proposals>.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals “from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character.” TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.