

***Trichomonas fetus* in bulls in Saskatchewan**

Apparent poor conception rates are often reported in cows on community pastures in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. A complete description of the problem is rarely possible, because cows and calves leave the pastures in the fall and are likely commingled with animals remaining on the farm. A complete reproductive status of the entire group may or may not be available, either after pregnancy testing in the fall or after calving in the spring. On the basis of such incomplete evidence, western Canadian veterinarians are expected to make recommendations to prevent conception failure in future

years. Therefore, many of the cow herds have undergone a wide-ranging immunization program, often with little measurable efficacy.

As part of an on-going research project, bulls from a community pasture with apparent poor conception rates were subjected to a standard breeding soundness evaluation. In addition, preputial washings were obtained for bacterial and parasitological isolations. Samples collected from 43 bulls at Ormiston, Saskatchewan, on May 20, 1993, revealed that five bulls were positive for *Trichomonas fetus*. Upon reexamination two weeks later, *T. fetus* was recovered from only one bull. These samples were confirmed as positive at Montana State University (C. Speer, personal communication). To the