

Submitter: Barbara Kahl  
On Behalf Of: The financial impact to producers  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1539

Chair and committee members:

The largest cattle producing, mostly rural, states of Texas and Kansas, do not use laymen for preg checks. Both worked with their veterinary organizations for resolution. While I appreciate the Senate committee vice -chair being a cattle owner, Trichomoniasis is not currently in his county. He is not familiar with the financial cost this disease, or others, will cause in laymen's hands.

Trichomoniasis Foetus(Trich)— Based on Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) surveillance data from veterinarians, 2022 to 2026, the following counties are consistently detected or classified as "High Risk" due to active cases and public grazing commingling:

?Malheur County (Highest detection rate; strictest tagging requirements)  
?Harney, Lake, Klamath, and Jackson Counties

?These counties are veterinary deserts requiring a permanent solution—a Rural Veterinary Incentive Program—not a band-aid to hold back a floodgate.

Notably, Wallowa County The home of the Senate vice-chair who proposed this bill, remains off the high-risk list due to geographical isolation and different grazing patterns, though all bulls are subject to veterinary state testing and reporting laws.

?The \$2.2 Million "Iceberg"

?Between 2022 and 2026, the estimated financial loss to Oregon cattle producers from ~40 actual reported cases of Trichomoniasis is approximately \$1.8 million to \$2.2 million.

This estimate follows the "Iceberg Effect," where one reported bull represents an entire infected herd. For a typical 100–200 head operation, the losses are:  
?Calf Loss (\$1.4M – \$1.6M): Infected herds see a 20% to 50% decrease in weaned calves. With 2024–2026 calf prices at record highs (averaging \$1,500–\$1,800 per head), losing even 30 calves in one medium herd equals \$54,000 in lost gross revenue.

?Bull Loss (\$250,000 – \$350,000): A positive bull must be sold for slaughter (~\$1,300). However, a high-quality replacement breeding bull in 2025 costs between

\$5,000 and \$9,000.

?Cow Loss (\$150,000 – \$250,000): Replacing a productive "open" cow with a bred heifer in the current market costs roughly \$3,000, while the cull only brings in ~\$1,100 or less at slaughter.

?The Cost of Veterinary Containment:

?When a case of Trichomoniasis is reported, ODA-certified veterinarians execute a rigorous state-mandated protocol to contain the biological threat:

?-Mandatory "S" Branding: Bulls are permanently marked and moved strictly for slaughter via VS 1-27 forms.

?-Quarantine & Trace-Back: Veterinarians identify "Exposed Herds" sharing fence lines or BLM allotments. Neighbors are legally required to undergo qPCR testing at their own expense.

?Test-to-Negative: Herds must pass three consecutive negative tests (\$32–\$60 per lab sample plus professional fees). For a 50-bull ranch, a single positive triggers a testing cascade exceeding \$5,000 in fees alone.

?The Multi-Million "Invisible Outbreak" Risk

?HB 1539-A proposes transitioning from mandatory veterinary-certified testing and "preg checking" to laymen. This could cost the Oregon cattle industry an estimated \$15 million to \$20 million. While a layman may identify an "open" cow, they cannot diagnose the underlying cause.

?If the 40+ reported cases of Trichomoniasis from 2022–2026 had gone undetected, the cascading impact would be estimated at \$17.6 million due to:

?-Undetected Spread: 4,000 to 6,000 exposed cows across multiple operations.

?-Compound Losses: Bulls are lifetime carriers; an undetected outbreak suppresses calving rates for years.

?The Veterinary Safety Net:

The core difference between a layman and a veterinarian in this scenario is diagnostic authority. A layman performing a "preg check" only identifies that a cow is not pregnant; a veterinarian identifies why. By catching these cases, veterinarians prevented these "index herds" from becoming "super-spreaders," shielding Oregon's \$900 million cattle industry from a reproductive crisis that could have exceeded \$50 million in losses