

Guide to BVDFree



What is BVD?

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) infection in cattle causes poor fertility and abortions, calf mortality, youngstock pneumonia, scours and poor growth rates. Cattle born persistently infected (PI) with the BVD virus are the main source of infection to a herd.

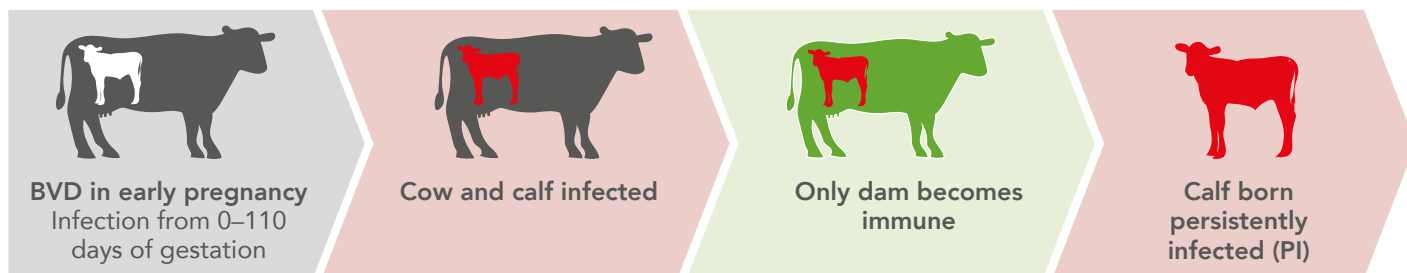


Figure 1. How a PI calf is created

Impacts of BVD

BVD Outbreak in 100 cow suckler herd, Yorkshire

Costs	Calculation	Cost
Cases of pneumonia increased by 28%, 28 calves affected at £50 per case	28 x 50	£1,400
Calf mortality increased from 4% to 30%, 26 extra calves died up to six months of age at forecast value of £600* minus production costs**	26 x 540	£14,040
2 PIs identified and culled at 9 months of age at forecast value of £700/calf	2 x 700	£1,400
Total cost for the herd		£16,840
Cost per cow		£168.40

*300kg @ 2.00/kg **Production costs – marketing £15, transport £20, vet/medicines £5 and feed £20

Buying today?

Check BVD status at bvdfree.org.uk before you buy.



BVD Virus Test Negative

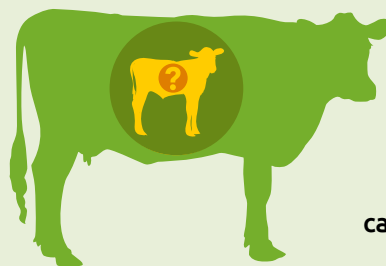


BVD Status Unknown
Animal has not been tested under BVDFree



BVD Virus Test Positive

Buying pregnant cattle?



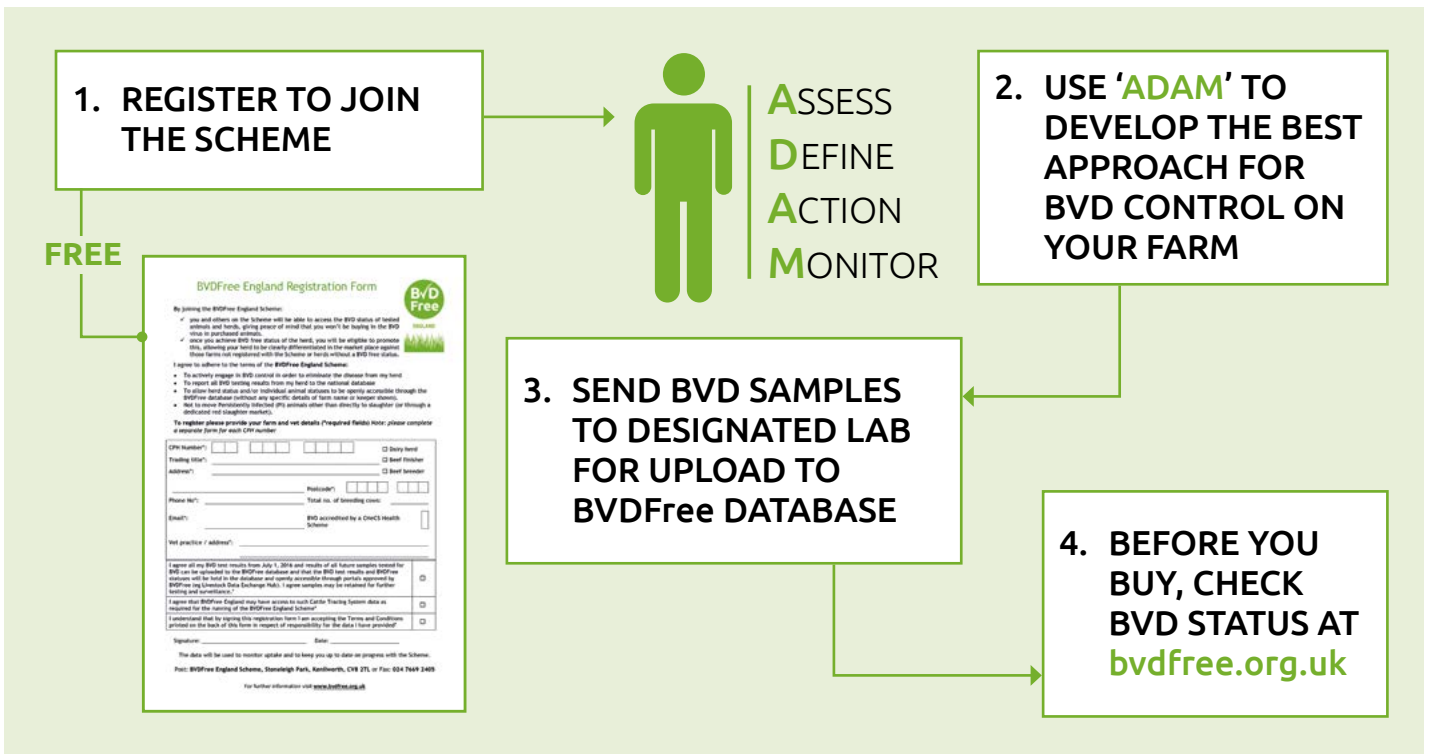
BUYER TAKE CARE

All pregnant cattle will carry a calf of **UNKNOWN** BVD status.

Isolate these animals from your herd and TEST THE CALF for BVD virus once born.

Please note that no test or test system is infallible and although the test sensitivity for BVD virus is c. 97.5% to 99.5%, a very small number of animals may be misclassified as false negatives.

How does the BVDFree scheme work?



Note: There is a fee for results uploaded to the database: 25p per virus and 50p per antibody result.

BVDFree is an industry scheme working to eliminate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) from England. The key is to identify and remove all animals persistently infected (PI) with BVD virus and prevent the creation of new PIs.

The BVD status of cattle tested under the scheme are searchable at bvdfree.org.uk, by entering a UK tag number or CPH. Farmers must register with BVDFree for test results to be uploaded to the national database. Visit bvdfree.org.uk to join the scheme.

Spread of BVD: The Facts

Spread of BVD infection

- From infected dams to their unborn calf
- Direct contact with infected cattle
- Through the semen of infected bulls
- Indirect contact (slurry, overalls, trailers, etc)

Persistently infected (PI) Cattle

- Risk period: Pregnant animal infected in first 110 days of gestation
- PI cattle are born, cannot become PI after birth
- PIs shed the virus into the environment for life

Can you spot the PI?



Answer: It is very difficult to identify PIs by eye.

For more information contact:
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Developed and led by:



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