Guide to BVDFree

BVD Free ENGLAND

What is the BVDFree England Scheme?

A voluntary industry-led scheme, BVDFree England is working to eliminate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) from all cattle in England by 2022. The key to success is to identify and remove all animals persistently infected (PI) with the BVD virus from the national cattle herd and to prevent the creation of new PIs.

The scheme is built around a national database, **bvdfree.org.uk**, which is searchable for the BVD status of cattle tested under the scheme. Famers must register with BVDFree to enable their herds' BVD test results to be uploaded to the database. Individual animal BVD status can be found by entering a UK tag number. Entering a CPH number will tell you if a herd is CHeCS BVD accredited-free, BVDFree registered or BVDFree not registered.

How the BVDFree England Scheme works

1. **REGISTER TO JOIN THE SCHEME**

ASSESS
DEFINE
ACTION
MONITOR

2. **USE 'ADAM' TO DEVELOP THE BEST APPROACH FOR BVD CONTROL ON YOUR FARM**

3. **SEND BVD SAMPLES TO DESIGNATED LAB FOR UPLOAD TO BVDFree DATABASE**

4. **BEFORE YOU BUY, CHECK BVD STATUS AT bvdfree.org.uk**

Buying today?

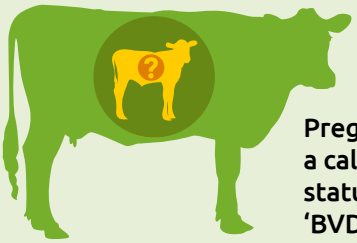
Check BVD status at **bvdfree.org.uk** before you buy, to minimise the risk of introducing BVD virus into your herd.

BVD Free — **BVD Virus Test Negative**

BUYER TAKE CARE — **BVD Status Unknown**
Animal has not been tested under BVDFree

BUYER BEWARE — **BVD Virus Test Positive**

Buying pregnant cattle?



BUYER TAKE CARE

Pregnant cattle will carry a calf of 'UNKNOWN' BVD status even if the cow is 'BVD Virus Test Negative'.

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

Only introduce these animals into your herd once they have been confirmed 'BVD Virus Test Negative'.

* 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.

bvdfree.org.uk

What is BVD?

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is a widespread disease of cattle causing poor growth rates, poor fertility, high calf mortality, pneumonia and scours in youngstock. It is spread by highly contagious, persistently infected (PI) animals that are born with the virus. These animals often appear fit and healthy.

How does BVD spread?

BVD virus is spread:

- From infected dams to their unborn calf
- By direct contact with infected cattle
- Through the semen of infected bulls
- By indirect contact (slurry, overalls, trailers, etc.).

Vaccinating can help control the disease but will not eliminate it from infected herds.

UK herds are at constant risk of introducing BVD due to:

- Unknowingly buying in PI animals
- Infection from neighbouring farms
- Contact with infected animals at markets and shows.

Persistently Infected animals (PIs)

If pregnant cattle become infected with BVD in the first 120 days of gestation, the calf may be born persistently infected (PI) with BVD virus.

An animal cannot become PI after birth.

PI animals shed high quantities of BVD virus into their environment for life. PIs are the single most significant source of infection to other cattle.

Within infected herds, there are usually only one or two PIs in every 100 cattle. Contact with these PIs leads to BVD infection spreading through the herd.

Impacts of BVD infection

BVD outbreak in 90 cow dairy herd in Staffordshire (2013–14)

Costs	Calculation	Cost
Increased returns to service, increasing the calving interval by an average of 5 days at £5/day/cow	(5 x £5) x 90	£2,250
Cases of clinical mastitis increased by 25%, ie 23 more cows affected at £150 per case	23 x £150	£3,450
12 PI calves identified and culled at £200/calf	12 x £200	£2,400
Total cost for the herd		**£8,100**
Cost per cow		**£90**

BVD Study in 2004[1] – Impact of BVD PIs on performance of 15,000 cattle feedlot, America

Costs	Weight gain (kg)	Daily LWG (kg)	Death rate (%)
Cattle with DIRECT contact to PI animals	37	0.59	3.17
Cattle with NO contact to PI animals	50	0.74	1.7

1. Hessman, B.E. et al. (2009) American Journal of Veterinary Research, 70, 73–85 doi: 10.2460/ajvr.70.1.73

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Developed and led by: