



February 2014

Newsletter

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Herd Health Matters

BVD Update

The current phase of the 'BVD FREE' campaign, designed to create awareness and determine willingness by the cattle industry to participate in a national BVD control programme draws to a close on 31 March 2014. The overall programme has been managed by the AHDB (DairyCo and Eblex), with XL Vets Training and RVC delivering training and scientific support. The funding has been used to extend the activities which had already been started by CHAWG (GB's Cattle Health and Welfare Group,), who had listed BVD as one of their priority disease control areas in 2012 and had been lobbying Defra for a BVD Control programme since that time, largely using the BVD control strategies suggested by CHeCS.

Following the award of RDPE funding, the AHDB developed a national BVD Steering Group in December 2012 to take on CHAWG's BVD control aims. Its remit has been to act in an advisory and consultative capacity to help shape and improve delivery of the RDPE project to March 2014. In addition, the group will work to lay the foundations for a more sustained BVD control initiative beyond March 2014. The Steering Group has been supported by a

Science and Technical Group, chaired by Prof. Joe Brownlie (RVC) providing scientific guidance to the project. Although the project is still running and so data is still in the process of collection,

- >600 vets on more than 150 practices have engaged with higher level training and practice meetings
- >1000 farmers on over 500 farms have attended a farmer workshop following testing on farm
- >1600 farmers have had training at a farmer seminar

Key messages from the RDPE 'BVD FREE' programme

Planning:

- Consult your vet on how to control BVD to improve health, welfare and profitability

Investigating:

- Know your BVD status

Controlling:

- If BVD free, KEEP IT OUT, buy only BVD free animals
- If not BVD free, find and cull PI animals; it is the key to controlling BVD. If your vet advises, vaccinate

Monitoring:

- Check your BVD status (at least) annually

Tenders are currently submitted alongside a range of plans to move to national eradication of BVD, with a potential regional approach to progress and a need for veterinary support at all levels.

BVD Funding for Farmers in Wales

The Farming Connect Knowledge Transfer

**BCVA driving
tomorrow's practice**



Programme is offering funding to help and encourage farmers to carry out an initial screen of their dairy and beef herds for the presence of circulating BVD virus. Funding is available to cover the laboratory cost of testing up to 20 herds per vet practice and workshop. This is on the basis of blood testing 8 animals per farm aged between 9-18 months for BVD antibodies. This process would fit in well at routine TB testing (FC do not cover payment for the vet's time on farm) and ideally would target herds that have not carried out any BVD screening to date. After securing BVD test results for at least 12 farms, the vet practice would organise a feedback meeting presenting the results (individual farms to be anonymous) and describing the way forward for those farms with regard a control programme for BVD. Neil Paton, WRVC, (npaton@rvc.ac.uk) is available to provide technical advice and help with the feedback meetings if required. A powerpoint presentation has also been prepared for use by vets to deliver the feedback meeting, and there is funding available to pay the vet practice for doing this. The local Farming Connect facilitator will jointly organise the feedback meeting and participating farmers will be required to complete a sign in sheet on the night. If you require any further information please contact Delana Davies on delana.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk or mobile: 07811 261 628.