

Join the national control programme to help manage BVD

Elizabeth Berry
DairyCo



Introduction

BVD is an extremely expensive and time consuming disease to deal with on farm. Its effect on cattle means they may fail to reach peak performance, have lower immunity (so suffering more respiratory and infectious disease) and have poorer fertility. **We cannot afford to ignore it.**

So what can we do about BVD on farm?

There are four key steps to addressing BVD on farm.

STEP
1

Planning

What am I investigating? How big is the problem? What is it I'm seeking to achieve?

Do you know if BVD is a problem on your farm? Set a goal with your vet as part of your herd health plan, to know what your herd status is, decide what you would like it to be and know how you are going to get there.

STEP
2

Investigating

What is my herd status and how do I identify individually infected animals?

Knowing your herd's status will give you the information to help select the most appropriate control to use on your farm. Bulk milk samples and/or youngstock blood samples help show whether BVD is a concern for your farm and whether you need to do more tests to fully understand where the problems lie.

STEP
3

Controlling

What do I need to do to control BVD in my herd?

When you know whether you have BVD or any PI animals on farm you can take steps to remove them, set up a vaccination strategy and ensure you have biosecurity controls in place.

STEP
4

Monitoring

How do I know if my control programme is working?

To make sure your control programme is working, regularly check the status of your herd.

How to get involved

To find out about future training events or find your nearest veterinary practice who are scheme providers, please contact the national BVD control programme at action@bvdcontrol.co.uk or on 01765 608489.



We would like to thank Animal Health Ireland for the use of some of the materials.

This project is supported by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) for which Defra is the Managing Authority, part funded by the European Agricultural Fund Development: Europe investing in rural areas.