



# English BVD programme Veterinary Newsletter February 2013



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**The English BVD control programme was launched in December 2012 through articles in the BCVA newsletter and Vet Record. Since that time, over 140 practices have expressed an interest in delivering BVD control to their farmers through the scheme, demonstrating the industry drive and determination to combat this virus.**

### What's been happening on a national level?

Training materials for vets and farmers have been prepared by Professor Joe Brownlie and Dr Richard Booth from the RVC and started to be delivered through veterinary workshops around the country. A wide ranging Stakeholder group, with representatives from across the farming and veterinary industry have met to help set the direction for the scheme and to shape an industry led BVD eradication programme beyond 2014 (when the RDPE programme is due to end). Promotional materials and a campaign logo have been developed and the RDPE programme, led by the AHDB and managed by XLVet Training Services Ltd has started to be carried out. Project co-ordinators are meeting representatives from the Livestock Auctioneers Association to discuss how the message can be communicated through Auction Marts. Training is also being set up with milk recording staff and breeding companies, to ensure consistent messages about the control of BVD reach representatives across the industry. In addition, sponsorship has so far been offered by Novartis, MSD and NMR, to help extend the legacy of the wider national programme.

### How does the RDPE programme work?

Thanks to the DEFRA and EU funded RDPE programme, a targeted scheme of knowledge exchange is available to farmers in the North East, Yorkshire, East of England, South East, East and West Midlands. Learning will be cascaded to farmers through their farm vet as shown.

(Please see overleaf for North West and South West involvement)

Vets in practice register with the BVD programme and attend vet CPD workshop to receive and discuss consistent messages and get RDPE information pack.



Vets take learning back to their practice and share with other farm vets and support staff to further cascade BVD knowledge. Practice identifies 15 farms to target for workshops and testing.



Practice feeds back location of farms involved in the programme to [action@bvdcontrol.co.uk](mailto:action@bvdcontrol.co.uk). Practice / scheme liaises with other vets in the area to highlight where BVD control is being delivered and to encourage regional collaboration where practical



Vets in practice share results of BVD mapping and feedback from farmers with local advisors and industry representatives (e.g. NFU, feed reps, breeding reps, auction marts) AND with farmers from the wider practices through seminars and meetings.



Messages shared across the country by [action@bvdcontrol.co.uk](mailto:action@bvdcontrol.co.uk) and with National Stakeholder Group to help determine English BVD control strategy post March 2014



# What's happening so far?

**Nine CPD workshops for vets have been held to date, cascading key messages in BVD control to more than 90 vets.**

**Morpeth:** Following a regional CPD workshop on 29 January, 9 practices are working together to map the occurrence of BVD on all farms in a defined area. Benchmarking and knowledge sharing workshops with farmers started.

**Derby:** 4 practices met; debate about when to test and which farms to involve. High value of support from auction marts discussed.

**Shrewsbury:** 6 vet practices met. Tag and test discussed as good practice to adopt post mapping of disease through PCR testing. How to involve clients straddling Welsh border?

**Hereford:** 5 vet practices met on 28 Jan to discuss BVD control and how to work collaboratively. Group meeting again on 27 Feb to share details on which farms selected. Second Hereford meeting set up to reach practices not able to join first meeting.

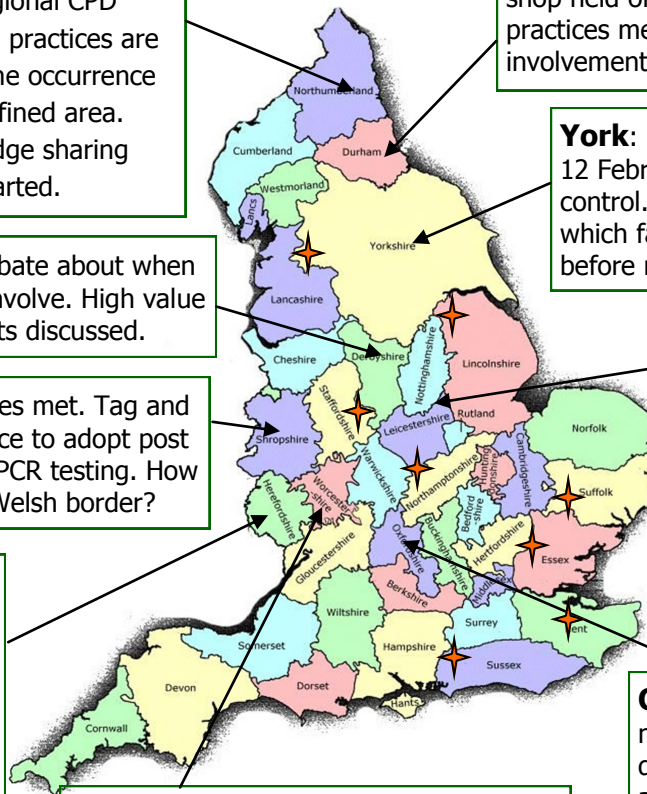
**Worcester:** 5 practices met to discuss BVD control and optimal testing methods. Recognition of need to share learning to increase local impact.

**Barnard Castle:** vet workshop held on 30 January. 3 practices met. Some farmer involvement begun.

**York:** 7 practices met on 12 February to discuss BVD control. Practices deciding which farms to target before reporting back.

**Melton Mowbray:** 5 practices met on 11 Feb. Key issue is when to test beef farms. Vets decided to start promptly to capture results pre-turnout.

**Oxford:** 5 practices met on 21 Feb to discuss control plans and regional collaboration.



Further meetings are planned in the coming weeks for Bury St Edmonds, Maidstone, Stafford, Newark, Chicester, Chelmsford and Skipton. In addition, workshops will be organised on demand from vets coming on to the programme.

## What about the North West and South West?

At the moment, RDPE programmes are already running in these areas, through the SAC/NFU (North West) and the Duchy SWHLI programme (South West). However, while complementing existing provision, we will be offering veterinary workshops and supporting farmer materials to practices in these areas from April 2013 to help share consistent messages across the country.

## Feedback so far

Motivating farmers to keep vaccinating and/or to vaccinate effectively (with correct dosage, booster periods and compliance with data sheet); understanding fully what a 'closed herd' means and the importance of effective biosecurity—communicated to farmers in a refreshed way to ensure the message gets through. The importance of having a clear and consistent message for ALL the country to adopt. The challenge of delivering a control programme without legislation is