

Letters

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doi: 10.1136/vr.f144

CATTLE HEALTH

Controlling BVD – call for practitioners

THE Cattle Health and Welfare Group (CHAWG) has recently identified bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) control as a priority for the English cattle industry. In November last year, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) was granted Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) funding from Defra to help support knowledge and skills training in the control of BVD until the end of March 2014. We are looking for vets across England to join our new BVD programme and to help control this disease.

Materials are currently being prepared by Joe Brownlie and his team at the Royal Veterinary College; these will be delivered to vets through CPD workshops in January to April 2013. These workshops will also outline materials and resources to use with farmers, along with details of how cross-sector industry collaboration is expected to provide underpinning support. Vets will subsequently work with farmers on local disease control programmes and discuss how appropriate control strategies, including diagnostics and treatments, could be implemented to benefit all farmers in a specific area.

As this initiative is principally concerned with knowledge transfer, the funding for eligible activities will be provided on receipt of evidence of training. Training will be on both a group workshop and one-to-one basis.

More details about how to get involved and how to sign up for a workshop are available from the XLVets Training Services team, which is managing the project, by telephone 01765 608489 or e-mail: action@bvdcontrol.co.uk