

BVD surveillance scheme launched

National Milk Laboratories (NML) is launching BVD HerdCheck, a CHaCS-accredited surveillance scheme, to help UK dairy and beef producers control bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) in their herds.

For the dairy sector, BVD HerdCheck includes two quarterly bulk milk sample tests, an antibody ELISA test and a BVD virus test using PCR technology. Milk samples are drawn from those already collected and stored by NML for payment purposes.

It also includes a youngstock antibody blood screen from 10 unvaccinated animals aged from nine to 18 months old.

For beef herds, the new scheme provides a youngstock blood test screen for all calves from nine to 18 months old and advocates the use of Tag and Test in young calves soon after birth. Dairy herds using BVD HerdCheck will be assigned a risk level depending on their results.

Close collaboration

NML has worked closely with vets in developing the service and recommends close collaboration with the farm vet in interpreting results. As part of the service, vets can draw on the added support of the NML veterinary team.

NML's BVD HerdCheck for dairy herds, which includes two bulk milk tests carried out four times a year and 10 youngstock blood tests, costs £175 plus VAT per year. The cost for beef herds, which includes 10 antibody blood tests a year and reporting of all BVD-related test results, is £75 per year.

Stand BM162

