BVD: "We must work towards eradication or be left behind"

"We can only reach the goal of eradication through a region-by-region approach. The disease is still present in many countries, and we need to work together to achieve our goal," said Prof. Joe Brownlie.

The Pi calf on the left was born on the same day as the BVD-free calf on the right and suffered health problems and stunted growth throughout its lifetime.

The Pi calf was born with a congenital defect, while the BVD-free calf was born without any health issues. This highlights the importance of BVD eradication in improving the health and productivity of livestock.

The image of the Pi calf was taken by a veterinarian and shows the physical differences between the two calves.

The text in the image details the challenges and strategies involved in BVD eradication efforts, emphasizing the importance of cooperation among countries and the need for continued investment in research and implementation of control measures.

The Farmer's Guardian article was published on June 8, 2007, and provides insights into the ongoing efforts to eradicate BVD and the impact of this disease on livestock health and productivity.
Devising an eradication strategy that works

FOR a glimpse of how BVD will be eradicated from the UK, ask Philip Sketchley, the Livestock Feature editor for the FARMERS GUARDIAN. He has been involved in the process of BVD eradication for many years and has seen the changes in the industry as it moves towards elimination.

"The eradication of BVD is a significant challenge for the UK livestock industry," says Sketchley. "It requires a coordinated effort from all stakeholders, including farmers, vets, and government agencies, to achieve the ultimate goal of BVD freedom." 

Mr Sketchley said that the eradication strategy is based on a combination of testing, vaccination, and removal of infected animals. He explained that the key to success is the development of a robust surveillance system that allows for early detection of outbreaks and swift action to contain them.

"The eradication of BVD is not just about controlling the disease," he added. "It's also about changing the way farmers think about animal health and welfare." 

Carolyn Hogan, a veterinarian and livestock advisor, agrees. "Eradication is not a one-time event," she says. "It's a continuous process that requires ongoing commitment from all farmers." 

Hogan emphasizes the importance of vaccine education and the need for farmers to understand the role vaccines play in the eradication process. "Vaccination is not a silver bullet," she says. "It's a crucial part of the eradication strategy, but it must be used in conjunction with other measures such as testing and removal of infected animals." 

The eradication of BVD is a long-term goal, and it requires the support of all stakeholders to achieve success. "It's not easy, but it's not impossible," says Sketchley. "With the right strategy and a committed approach, we can eradicate BVD from the UK livestock industry."