



“Until vaccines and cures are available, vigilance against the spread of BVDV is essential,” explains Dr Brownlie.

carry any risk of transmitting BVDV. This work has only been possible because of the research funding provided jointly by the MMB and MLC. We are grateful for the enlightened help and support provided by the staff of both organisations.

“What we hope to establish during the current research is the potential risk of virus transmission, tests that can be used on such small entities as 4-7 day embryos and possibly improved means of washing embryos after collection and before transfer to recipient dams. “At present the disease is not notifiable and Dr Brownlie suggests it is premature to consider doing so now. What is more important is that farmers are made more aware of its existence and follow guidelines. It has been estimated that BVDV costs the country about £47 million to the cattle industry.

ERADICATION

Some of the European countries are setting up eradication programmes. Sweden has a programme of scanning all herds in a large part of their cattle rearing area by examining bulk milk for evidence of infection. This appears to have brought considerable rewards in better production and less disease.

“In England and Wales we should take greater interest in this development and seriously consider its implication for our own national herd. “Lastly, Dr Brownlie expresses his concern about bringing the virus into our own clean herds whether from cattle within the UK or cattle imported from overseas. He was reassuring in confirming that the veterinary staff from MAFF were all well aware and ever vigilant about the problem.

“Although it is too early to legislate against the virus it is vitally important that people are aware of the risks and take the appropriate precautions.”