



Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

BVD is a highly contagious viral disease which is closely related to the viruses that cause classical swine fever in pigs and border disease in sheep; this virus causes a complex of diseases in cattle which **reduce fertility**, affect the foetus and lead to **mucosal disease**.

Unborn calves that are infected with the virus in utero (within the first 120 days of pregnancy) are likely to become **Persistently Infected (PI)** animals which then provide the major route of spread of the virus. They often appear normal but shed the virus throughout their lives.

Clinical signs

- Reduced fertility, lower conception rates, abortions, extended calving period and increase in barren cows
- Suppressed disease resistance leading to pneumonia and scours
- Enteritis – occasionally severe enough to kill even adult cows
- Production – reduced growth rates, poor milk yields

Transmission

- Close contact with PI animal
- Infected dams to their unborn calf
- Semen from transiently infected bulls
- Contaminated needles and other equipment including clothing
- Potentially other infected ruminant species, such as sheep and deer

Sources of potential BVD infection includes buying in cattle of unknown health status, close contact with neighbouring cattle and picking up infection at shows and sales.

Economic impact

- In a large beef herd the costs of a BVD outbreak can exceed **£45,000** over ten years
- Potentially greater losses in the dairy herd
- An estimated **90% of UK herds¹** have been exposed to the disease
- Losses from mucosal disease cases are the most obvious
- However, in most outbreaks reproductive losses are the most significant

Vaccinating will help to reduce disease risk in the herd and is a useful aid to biosecurity but will not eradicate the disease.

Protect your herd!

BVD Accreditation Scheme

Add value and protect your herd by joining the Premium Cattle Health Scheme

Join today for 50% off Annual Membership in your first year!

Benefits of Joining

- As a member you benefit from preferential testing rates to keep costs down
- Results are emailed directly to you and your vet simultaneously, for easy integration into your existing herd health management
- Our specialist vets are also available to discuss test results and action plans
- Advertise your stock as **BVD** accredited at auction or for private sales and be listed on our **online database** to help market your stock and achieve higher prices
- Attend BVD accredited sections of shows and sales
- Export to certain countries free from BVD

How the Accreditation Scheme Works:

- Follow the **CHeCS** rules and conditions for testing, stock management and biosecurity
- Test 5 unvaccinated young stock aged 9 to 18 months per management group **OR** tag and test all calves at birth (check out our website for tag companies and testing)
- Herd status awarded after two consecutive calf crops then continue to test once a year
- Members can also become accredited for **Johne's Disease, Leptospirosis, IBR and Neospora**
- Certificates are issued to show herd health status

PCHS Supports National BVD eradication including:

- Scottish BVD Eradication Scheme
- BVDFree England
- Welsh BVD Eradication Programme
- NI BVD Eradication Programme

For more info please contact:

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