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## **FACT SHEET 1: BVD Monitoring & Vaccination in Suckler Herds**

### **BVD - THE PROBLEM**

1. Major financial loss to beef and dairy farmers
2. Active infection in 38% of Scottish suckler herds in 2008
3. Infertility, abortion, protracted calving periods
4. Calf scours, pneumonia
5. Spread by persistently infected (PI) animals

### **AIM**

1. Identification and removal of virus positive (PI) animals
2. Protection of breeding herd against BVD through vaccination
3. Sale of suckled calves with a health declaration
4. Advantages for vendor and purchaser
5. Increase the profitability of the herd

### **RISK FACTORS**

1. Purchased cattle of unknown status
2. In-calf heifers
3. Cows with calves at foot
4. Bulls
5. Set-on calves
6. Contact across fences with neighbours' cattle

### **CONTROL**

1. Plan the approach with your vet (includes biosecurity assessment)

2. Sample five animals from each separately managed group of young stock plus bought in animals
3. Sample at minimum of 6 months of age. Ideally from 9 months old.
4. If evidence of BVD infection is found (around 1/3 of herds) then sample to identify persistently infected animals (PI) and remove to slaughter
5. Vaccinate all breeding stock
6. It takes a minimum of 12 months to detect and remove all PI calves
7. Source replacements from BVD accredited or vaccinated and monitored free herds, otherwise isolate and test on arrival

## **FACT SHEET 2: BVD Monitoring & Vaccination - Selling Bulling Heifers**

### AIM

1. Provide commercial breeding stock free from and protected against BVD
2. Avoid purchase of BVD virus carriers (PI animals)
3. Increase the profitability of the herd
4. Create repeat business and a sustainable enterprise

### WHY

1. A BVD outbreak can cause high losses through its effect on fertility in the cow herd and the subsequent health and performance of the calves
2. Prevalence of BVD in Scotland is high – approximately 38% of suckler cow herds had active BVD infection in 2008.

### ACTION TO TAKE

1. Blood sample all heifers at least six weeks( depending on vaccine used) prior to sale
2. Give first dose of BVD vaccine at same time
3. Three to four weeks later (depending on vaccine used) give second dose of BVD vaccine
4. Discuss blood sample results with the vet
5. PI animals should not be sold, other than direct to slaughter
6. Obtain health declaration from vet – signed by vet and farmer
7. Present health declaration at sale

### NEXT STEP

1. Discuss with vet and TEST your bulling heifers NOW.

## **FACT SHEET 3: BVD Monitoring & Vaccination - Selling in-calf Heifers**

### AIM

2. Provide commercial breeding stock free from and protected against BVD
3. Provide heifers and unborn calves free from BVD.
4. Increase the quality of your product
5. Ensure repeat business

### WHY

1. BVD causes high losses through its effect on fertility in the cow herd and the subsequent health and performance of the calves
2. Prevalence of BVD in Scotland is high – approximately 38% of Scottish suckler cow herds had active BVD infection in 2008.

### ACTION TO TAKE

If stock are already BVD free check if you have a current certificate of accreditation from your health scheme provider.

#### IF NOT:

1. Review biosecurity with your vet
2. At least six weeks (depending on vaccine used) before breeding starts take blood sample from heifers and bull, if he has not previously been tested for BVD virus
3. Give first dose of BVD vaccine at this time (discuss with vet)
4. Three to four weeks later (depending on vaccine used) give second dose of BVD vaccine
5. Bull can go in with heifers one to four weeks after second dose (depending on product used)
6. Discuss BVD blood sampling results with vet
7. If any virus carriers (PIs) detected they should only be sold for slaughter
8. Do not sell until at least 3 months after bull removed

9. Obtain health declaration from vet, signed by vet and farmer
10. Present health declaration at sale

#### NEXT STEP

1. Discuss with vet and START TESTING.

## **FACT SHEET 4: BVD Monitoring & Vaccination - Selling Heifers/ Cows with Calves at Foot**

### AIM

2. Provide commercial breeding stock free from and protected against BVD
3. Avoid sale of BVD virus carriers (PI animals)
4. Increase the quality of your product
5. Ensure repeat business

### WHY

1. BVD infection causes high losses through its effect on fertility in the cow herd and the subsequent health and performance of the calves
2. Prevalence of BVD in Scotland is quite high – approximately 38% of Scottish suckler cow herds had active BVD infection in 2008.

### ACTION TO TAKE

If cows are already BVD free, check if you have current certificate of accreditation from your health scheme provider.

### IF NOT

1. Ideally test and vaccinate before breeding - do not forget bull
2. Ensure vaccination course is complete – discuss with vet
3. If not done before breeding test mothers and calves. Calves from birth with ear notch test or blood test from one month of age) and test their mothers for BVD virus
4. Do not vaccinate calves
5. Discuss results with vet
6. Ensure at least 10 days from blood sampling to sale
7. Obtain health declaration report from vet
8. Present health declaration at sale

### NEXT STEP

Discuss with vet and **START TESTING.**

## **FACT SHEET 5: BVD - Infection in a Herd**

YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN OUTBREAK OF BVD IN YOUR HERD.

If you already have an outbreak:

### RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE

1. Vaccinate all breeding stock - do not forget bull
2. Test all calves over one month old for BVD virus
3. Test all mature stock that are not the mother of a tested calf
4. Test all bulls
5. Screen mothers of PI calves for BVD virus
6. Isolate PI animals immediately
7. Confirm PI animals by second blood test after 3 weeks
8. Remove PI animals from herd – cull or remove for slaughter
9. Test all remaining calves when they reach at least one month old
10. Screen all calves born for the 12 months following removal of the last PI animal
11. Keep a high standard of biosecurity –discuss with your vet

## **FACT SHEET 6: BVD - Biosecurity**

### WHAT IS IT?

Management practices undertaken to reduce the risk of disease challenge

### AIM

1. Increase efficiency of production
2. Reduce disease spread
3. Prevent disease introduction

### RISK FACTORS

1. Bought animals inc. foster calves
2. Hired animals
3. Boundaries
4. Visitors
5. Water
6. Shared equipment
7. Feedstuffs

### APPROACHES TAKEN

1. Ideally purchase accredited or virus free and vaccinated stock.
2. Quarantine bought stock for one month (isolate in building with separate airspace)
3. Vaccination (if appropriate - discuss with Vet)
4. Double fencing
5. Disinfection facilities
6. Fence off watercourses
7. Clean and disinfect before using shared equipment

8. Make feed stores vermin proof

### **Planning Biosecurity**

Plan your biosecurity in discussion with your vet

Incorporate the plan into your health plan

Review plan each year and when any major change in management or enterprise is to be made.