

What is BVD?

BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) is a complicated virus with a misleading name: diarrhoea is not commonly seen in infected cows, and is certainly not the reason that this disease costs the UK cattle industry an estimated £50 – 75m per year.

Have you experienced any of the following symptoms on your farm?

- Unexplained ill-thrift
- Reduced fertility and abortions
- Subfertility in bulls
- Scour and pneumonia in calves

And if not, are you prepared to risk them?

BVD suppresses the immune system of infected animals, and as a result a whole host of diseases can become much more prevalent on your farm.

Whether you breed or buy youngstock, you cannot afford to ignore it.



Know your status... protect your herd.

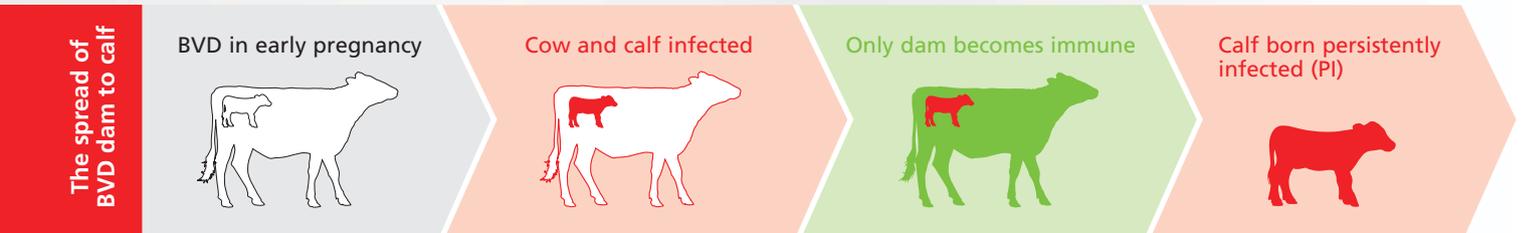
For more information, visit www.bvdfree.co.uk or ask your vet

How does BVD spread?

BVD is spread by nose to nose contact with carriers, from infected dams to their unborn calves, and through the semen of infected bulls. Vaccinating can help control disease, but will not eradicate the disease in already infected stock – you might be vaccinating and still have BVD on your farm.

BVD vaccination helps to protect animals through the production of antibodies but has no effect on a BVD Persistently Infected (BVD PI) animal. Virus can still be shed from BVD PI animals and protection of other animals via vaccination is not 100%.

The birth of a BVD Persistently Infected (BVD PI) animal



If the cow is infected during the first four months of pregnancy you can expect:

- Embryonic death;
- Early abortion;
- Cow's immunity develops;
- 'PI' Calves – BVD infection in the early-pregnant cow may result in the birth of a persistently infected (PI) calf. These calves frequently fail to thrive and die young, sometimes of 'mucosal disease'.

It is difficult to identify PIs without laboratory testing. PI calves continually shed huge amounts of virus. This leads to more disease in their cohort, and keeps infection circulating on farm.

Do not forget that a PI which survives until breeding age will **always** give birth to a PI calf.

Understanding the spread of BVD animal to animal:

Transiently infected animals – cows, bulls and calves can all shed BVD virus and are a source of infection.

Naive

Virus infects susceptible non-pregnant animal.

Infected

Animal becomes acutely infected and sheds virus for up to 2 to 3 weeks.

Immune

Animal mounts immune response and eliminates infection.

So what can I do about BVD on farm?

Step 1 – Planning

**What am I investigating? How big is my problem?
What is it I'm seeking to achieve?**

Do you know if BVD is a problem for you on farm? Set a goal with your vet as part of your herd health plan to understand what your herd status is, decide what you'd like it to be, and plan how you're going to get there.

Step 2 – Investigating

What is my herd status and how do I identify individually infected animals?

Knowing your herd's status will give you the information needed to select the most appropriate control method to use on your farm. Bulk milk samples and/or youngstock bleeds help show whether BVD is a concern for your farm and whether you need to do more tests to fully understand where the problems lie.

Step 3 – Controlling

What do I need to do to control BVD in my herd?

When you know whether you have BVD, or any PI animals on farm, you can take steps to remove PIs, set up a vaccination strategy and ensure you have biosecurity controls in place.

Step 4 – Monitoring

How do I know if my control programme is working?

To make sure your control programme is working, regularly check the status of your herd. Talk to your vet today to discuss BVD control on your farm.