

BVD Virus

Youngstock buyers

Buying in cattle inevitably carries the risk of buying in disease. In youngstock, this is commonly recognised as outbreaks of scour and pneumonia. This is more likely, and symptoms will usually be worse, if the immunosuppressive virus BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) is also present. Importantly, even if the herd you are buying from vaccinates for BVD, this doesn't mean that there won't be a problem.

BVD infection in the early-pregnant cow may result in the birth of a persistently infected (PI) calf.

PI calves frequently fail to thrive and die young, sometimes of 'mucosal disease'. However you can't tell an animal is a PI just by looking at it: it is only possible to accurately identify PIs with the aid of laboratory tests.

PI calves continually shed huge amounts of virus. This suppresses the immune system of all in contact, who are then less able to fight off other infections, such as calf scour or pneumonia.

As a result, a whole host of diseases arise, and production is reduced across the group.

The costs are hard to quantify because of the various production implications. Therefore there is potentially a huge financial benefit attached to achieving BVD control.

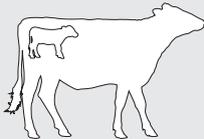
Theoretically, the birth of PI calves can be prevented by vaccinating cows against BVD before they are served. However, purchasing youngstock from a vaccinated herd is not a failsafe approach, and in any case as a youngstock buyer, rather than breeder, vaccination is largely beyond your control.

But this doesn't mean that the BVD status of your stock is beyond your control.

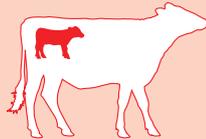


The spread of BVD dam to calf

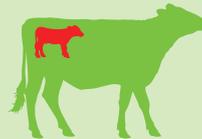
BVD in early pregnancy



Cow and calf infected



Only dam becomes immune



Calf born persistently infected (PI)



Know your status... protect your herd.

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

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The only way to be sure that you are not buying PI animals is to know the BVD status of each individual you purchase. This can be achieved by a blood test, or by using BVD tissue-sampling tags, which simultaneously identifies animals and harvests a sample for virus-testing.

Ideally testing should be carried out pre-sale (for example, at the time of the pre-movement TB test), thus preventing the purchase of diseased animals. When purchasing stock, look for a BVD tissue-sampling tag, and obtain the result for each individual.

Protect your profits.

