The enhanced programme measures introduced for 2018 have delivered further progress in the national BVD eradication programme, with significant improvements being made in reducing both the prevalence and retention of persistently infected (PI) calves.

- €85 million saving to farmers in 2018 alone.
- 90% of breeding herds have attained negative herd status (NHS).
- Eradication achievable by 2020.
- Number of PIs alive at end of 2018 historically low.
- Many counties with periods in 2018 during which no PIs were alive.

The key points for the BVD programme in 2019 include measures required to further accelerate progress towards eradication, with a focus on prompt testing of calves, removal of PIs, prevention of onward spread from positive herds and testing of animals of unknown status.
BVD ERADICATION - KEY MESSAGES FOR 2019

1. **Tissue tag testing remains compulsory for 2019.** A list of suppliers of approved tags and of the laboratories approved to test each tag type is available from [https://goo.gl/z82L4p](https://goo.gl/z82L4p).

2. **Tissue tag-test calves as soon as possible after birth.** Where positive or inconclusive results are obtained, these should be removed promptly to obtain the higher level of financial support provided by DAFM and to avoid herd restrictions.

3. Where veterinary advice is to re-test the calf, this must be done by means of a **blood sample (this also applies to testing of dams).** DAFM will meet the costs of the visit by the herd’s veterinary practitioner and of testing the calf (and dam if sampled at the same time).

4. **DAFM supports for removal of PI calves are revised to the following rates and periods:**
   - **BEF HERDS:**
     - i. €220 for beef breed animals removed with a registered date of death on AIM within 10 days of the initial test, reducing to €30 if removed between 11 and 21 days after the initial test.
   - **DAIRY HERDS:**
     - i. Dairy heifers and dairy cross calves: €160 if removed within 10 days of the initial test, reducing to €30 if removed between 11 and 21 days after the initial test.
     - ii. €30 for removal of bull calves within 14 days of the initial test.
   For full terms and conditions see [https://goo.gl/2PPb1X](https://goo.gl/2PPb1X).

5. **Restriction of herds retaining PI calves and notification of neighbours.** DAFM will automatically restrict movements into and out of herds that retain PI animals for more than 21 days after the date of the initial test (in the absence of a recorded date of death on AIM). **Ensure PIs are removed in time to allow the death to be recorded before 21 days elapse.** Restrictions are automatically lifted following removal of PIs. **Neighbouring herds** will also be notified, advising them to take appropriate biosecurity measures to minimize the risk of accidental introduction of infection.

6. **Enhanced veterinary investigations of all herds with PI calves born in 2019.** These investigations, funded through the Rural Development Plan, and delivered by a trained private veterinary practitioner, must be completed within 3 months of the date of the first positive result. Targeted sampling to detect any unidentified PI animals will be conducted and advice to prevent sale of pregnant animals (trojans) that may be carrying PI calves provided. Tracing and investigation of herds that sold trojan dams will also be conducted. For details contact Animal Health Ireland on 071 967 1928 or follow [https://goo.gl/Nw8ZgH](https://goo.gl/Nw8ZgH).

7. **Test animals of unknown status to obtain NHS.** Around 7,000 herds contain animals that either have not produced a negative calf or do not have a valid result on the database. The presence of these animals prevents herds attaining NHS and accessing lower cost testing.

8. **Review biosecurity to minimize the risk of accidental introduction of BVD virus,** leading to the birth of PI calves, through movement of animals, people (including the farmer) or equipment or across boundaries [https://goo.gl/Qiu4B](https://goo.gl/Qiu4B).