

BVD Eradication - Programme KEY Points for 2017

The national BVD eradication programme has had considerable success in reducing the prevalence of the disease. The number of Persistently Infected (PI) animals born in 2016 is less than one quarter of that seen in 2013, the first year of the compulsory programme. Significant improvements have also been made in reducing the extent to which PIs are retained on farm. These very encouraging results indicate that complete eradication is well within reach, and the measures outlined below, including the continuation of tag testing, are designed to further accelerate progress towards this objective.

✔ **Tissue tag testing remains compulsory for 2017.** DAFM no longer issues tag order forms. A list of suppliers of approved tags and of the laboratories approved to test these is available online [[click here](#)]. Contact laboratories for prices for testing each tag type. Only send tags to labs designated to test that particular tag type.

✔ **Increased DAFM supports but reduced time limits for removal of PI calves.**

BEEF HERDS:

€185 for beef breed animals removed with a registered date of death on AIM within **3 weeks** of the initial test, reducing to €60 if removed in the **4th or 5th week** after the initial test.

DAIRY HERDS:

Dairy and dairy cross heifers: €150 if removed within **3 weeks** of the initial test, reducing to €35 if removed in the **4th or 5th week** after the initial test. €30 for removal of bull calves within 3 weeks of the initial test.

For full terms and conditions [[click here](#)].

DAFM will issue an application form to farmers who are potentially eligible for payments.

✔ **Veterinary investigations of all herds with PI calves born in 2017.** All herds with PI calves born in 2017 are required to undergo an investigation funded through the Rural Development Plan, and delivered by an approved private veterinary practitioner, within 3 months of the date of the first positive result. For details contact Animal Health Ireland on 071 967 1928 or [[click here](#)].

✔ **Confirmatory and dam testing by blood sample only.** Testing of the dam of PI calves and, where desired, confirmatory testing of the calf must be done by means of a **blood sample only**. DAFM will meet the cost of the visit by the herd's veterinary practitioner and the cost of testing.

✔ **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 five weeks after the date of the initial test. This will be 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.

Farmers are reminded of the **benefits of obtaining and protecting Negative Herd Status (NHS)**. By identifying and testing any animals whose status is not known, farmers can obtain NHS and access lower cost testing, for further information [[click here](#)]. Appropriate biosecurity measures should be put in place to minimize the risk of accidental introduction of infection through movement of animals, people or equipment or across boundaries, further information [[click here](#)].

NATIONAL BVD ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Animal Health Ireland, 4-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 WN27



BVDFree
AnimalHealthIreland.ie

Animal Health Ireland; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM); Glanbia; ICBF; Irish Co-Operative Organisation; Society (ICOS); Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association (ICMSA); Irish Farmers' Association (IFA); Irish Holstein Friesian Association (IHFA); Pedigree Cattle Breeders' Council of Ireland; UCD; Teagasc; Veterinary Ireland.