

BVD ERADICATION - KEY MESSAGES FOR 2018

The enhanced programme measures introduced for 2017 have delivered further progress in the national BVD eradication programme, with significant improvements being made in reducing the extent to which PIs are retained on farm. The number of Persistently Infected (PI) animals born in 2017 is less than one sixth of that seen in 2013, the first year of the compulsory programme, generating an overall saving to farmers in excess of €75 million, and over 70,000 herds have attained a negative herd status (NHS). For the first time, some counties have had periods during which they have contained no known PIs. These very encouraging results indicate that complete eradication is well within reach, with a target of 2020. Outlined below are key messages about the programme in 2018, including measures required to further accelerate progress towards eradication.

1. **Tissue tag testing remains compulsory for 2018.** A list of suppliers of approved tags and of the laboratories approved to test each tag type is available online [click here](#).
2. **Tissue tag-test calves as soon as possible after birth. Where positive or inconclusive results are obtained, consult your veterinary practitioner for advice on whether to remove the calf immediately or to conduct a re-test.** Where a decision is taken to re-test the calf, this must be done by means of a **blood sample only (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).
3. **DAFM supports for removal of PI calves will continue** at the following rates:
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](#).
4. **Veterinary investigations of all herds with PI calves born in 2018.** All herds with PI calves born in 2018 are required to undergo an investigation funded through the Rural Development Plan, and delivered by a trained 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](#).
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 five weeks 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 5 weeks 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. Test animals of unknown status to obtain NHS. Around 11,000 herds contain animals that either have not produced a negative calf or which do not have a valid result recorded on the database. The presence of these animals prevents herds attaining NHS and accessing lower cost testing.
7. 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 [click here](#).



NATIONAL BVD ERADICATION PROGRAMME

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