



AHI BULLETIN

Progressing towards BVD eradication – Mid Year Review

- Substantial progress has been made in reducing the prevalence of PI animals in 2018.
- Retention levels of PIs have reduced.
- Animals whose status is not known should be identified and tested.

The national BVD eradication programme has had significant success in reducing the prevalence of the disease. As of 1st June, over 75% of this year's calf crop have been born and tested. The BVD results show that further progress toward eradication has been made. In 2018 to-date, the prevalence has reduced by 50% from that seen in 2017, from 0.10% to 0.05% (Figure 1). And this reduction is even more dramatic when compared to the 0.66% prevalence in 2013, the first year of the compulsory programme, representing an estimated net benefit to farmers of 85 million euro in 2018 alone.

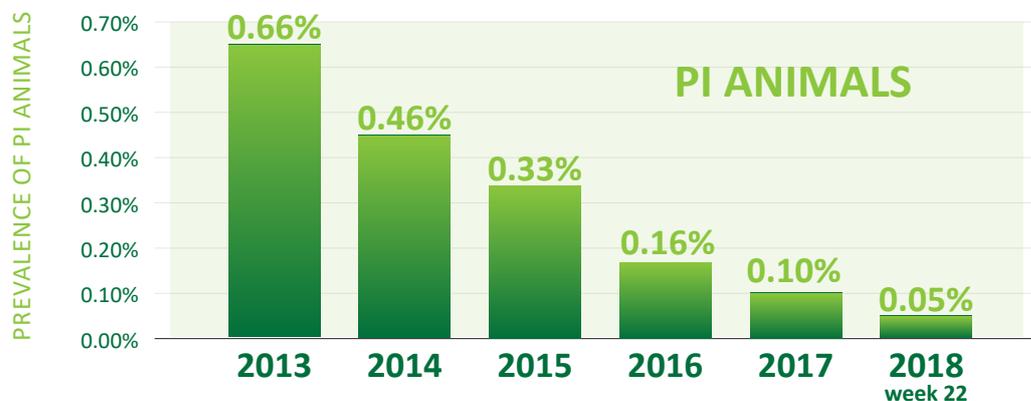


Figure 1. PI prevalence per year

A key focus over the next months will be the identification and testing of the small proportion of animals whose BVD status is not known. Herd owners will be contacted within the next few weeks with details of these animals.

Substantial improvements have also been made in reducing the extent to which PIs are retained on farm. Figures up to the end of May show that 156 PIs are still alive on farms, of which only 31 PI animals in 23 herds are being retained beyond 5 weeks.

AHI publishes monthly maps showing the distribution of both all PIs that are still alive (Figure 2) and those that are being retained (Figure 3; alive for more than 35 days after their initial test). [Click here](#).

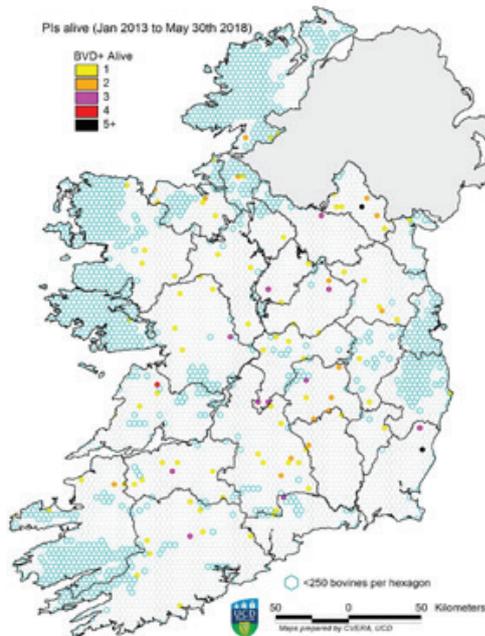


Figure 2. Number and distribution of BVD-positive animals that are still alive

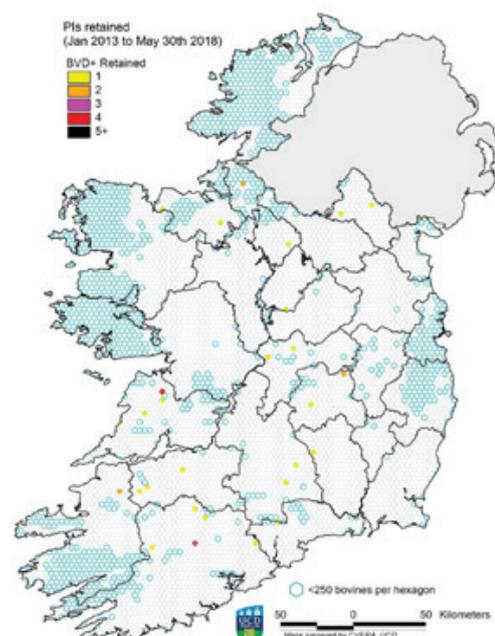


Figure 3. Number and distribution of BVD-positive animals that are currently retained (alive more than 5 weeks after initial test)

PI animals are unlikely to survive or thrive, and shed virus continuously, posing a risk to other animals in their own and neighbouring herds. Infection of susceptible females between 30 and 120 days of pregnancy will result in the creation of further PI calves.

For infected herds, it is important to remove positive animals as soon as possible, particularly now that many pregnant animals are in this risk period. Until their removal, they should be isolated and biocontainment measures implemented to avoid infecting animals within their own and neighbouring herds.

In BVD-free herds, with breeding now underway, it is important to review all biosecurity measures in the herd so that infection is not accidentally introduced.

Herdowners are encouraged to discuss all aspects of biosecurity, including their vaccination policy, with their own veterinary practitioner.