

BVD ERADICATION

KEY MESSAGES FOR 2020

Significant progress has been made since the start of the programme in reducing both the prevalence and retention of persistently infected (PI) animals. Currently:

- 94% of breeding herds have negative herd status (NHS)
- Over 99.5% of bovine animals have a negative BVD status, with remainder mostly untested
- The number of PI animals alive at the end of 2019 historically low, with those having been found in only 544 out of 83,000 breeding herds

Outlined below are key programme messages for 2020, including measures to further accelerate progress towards eradication, with a focus on prompt testing of calves and removal of PIs, prevention of onward spread from positive herds and testing of animals of unknown status, including those born before the 1st January 2013.

1. **Tissue tag testing remains compulsory for 2020.** A list of suppliers of approved tags and of the laboratories approved to test each tag type is available from <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 a decision is taken, based on veterinary advice, 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).
4. **DAFM supports for removal of PI calves remain at the following rates:**
 - a. **BEEF 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.
 - b. **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>.

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-  **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 positive calves born in 2020.** These investigations, funded through the Rural Development Programme, and delivered by a trained private veterinary practitioner, must be completed within 3 months of the date of the first positive result; advice to prevent the sale of pregnant animals (trojans) that may be carrying PI calves will be provided. **Funded, targeted sampling to detect any unidentified PI animals must also be conducted within 2 months of the positive result.** 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>.
-  **7. Test animals of unknown status to obtain NHS.** Around 4,700 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. **It is anticipated that from 1st April 2020, there will be a legal requirement to test pre-2013 born animals.**
-  **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/Qiua4B>.

The BVD Implementation Group (BVD IG) is currently considering options for post-eradication surveillance, taking into account the new Animal Health Law which is coming into force in April 2021. This Law sets out the requirements for BVD eradication programmes to be recognised at EU level. Thanks to the significant progress made by the Irish BVD programme, recognition of freedom at EU level should be possible in the near future. The BVD IG is considering the necessary changes to the programme required to achieve recognition.