



BVD Eradication

Key Messages 2021



The new Animal Health Law (AHL) which comes into force in April 2021 sets out the requirements for recognition of BVD eradication programmes at EU level.

Substantial progress has been made since the start of the national eradication programme to the point where the BVD Implementation Group (BVDIG) plans to apply for recognition of the Irish programme in 2021 and to meet the conditions for freedom by 2023. This includes having negative herd status (NHS) for 99.8% of all herds (currently over 95% of breeding herds) representing at least 99.9% of cattle and would bring to an end compulsory tissue tag testing for the majority of herds after 2022. To achieve this goal the BVDIG has developed a series of enhanced measures to:



Maximise the proportion of herds (including non-breeding herds) with NHS.



Rapidly identify and resolve the small number of herds with positive/inconclusive results in 2021 and 2022 and minimise the risk of onward transmission of infection.

Key Messages for All Herds

Outlined below are key messages for all herds in 2021, with a focus on prompt testing of calves and increasing the proportion of herds with NHS by testing of animals of unknown status, including those born before the 1st January 2013.

1. **Tissue tag testing remains compulsory for 2021.**
2. **Tissue tag-test all calves as soon as possible after birth.** Where positive or inconclusive results are obtained, remove these promptly to obtain the higher level of financial support provided by DAFM. **Confirmatory testing of these animals is no longer permitted.**
3. **Negative Herd Status.** Herds will require to be free of confirmed cases for **18 months** instead of 12 months, as previously. This change is necessary to align with the AHL.
4. **Test animals of unknown status to obtain NHS.** Around 5% of herds contain small numbers of animals that either do not have a valid test result or have not yet produced a negative calf. The presence of these animals prevents herds attaining NHS and accessing lower cost testing. **It is now a legal requirement to test animals of unknown status born before 2013,** in addition to those born after this date.
5. **Review biosecurity to minimize the risk of accidental introduction of BVD virus,** with a focus on movement of animals, people (including the farmer) or equipment or across farm boundaries (<https://goo.gl/Qiua4B>).

NATIONAL BVD ERADICATION PROGRAMME

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BVDFree
Animal Health Ireland.ie

Key Messages for Herds with Positive or inconclusive results

1. **Immediate herd restriction and neighbour notification.** DAFM will restrict moves both in and out. While restricted, movements out of the herd to slaughter or to non-breeding herds may be granted on a case-by-case basis under permit by the RVO, provided that the animals move directly to their destination. Neighbouring herds will immediately receive a biosecurity notification informing them of their increased risk, and on a monthly basis thereafter in the absence of removal of animal(s) with positive or inconclusive results.
2. **Isolation and removal of all animals with an initial positive or inconclusive test result; re-testing of these animals is no longer permitted.** Remove these promptly to obtain the higher level of financial support provided by DAFM.

BEEF HERDS

- €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

- Dairy heifers and dairy cross animals: €160 if removed within **10 days** of the initial test, reducing to €30 if removed between 11 and 21 days after the initial test.
- €30 for removal of bull calves within 14 days of the initial test.

3. **Cleaning and disinfection of buildings and handling facilities** which may have been contaminated, as soon as practicable but in advance of the next breeding season.
4. **Conditions for lifting of restrictions.** These will be lifted following completion of each of the following three measures by a nominated trained private veterinary practitioner (PVP), beginning at least 3 weeks after removal of the animal with positive or inconclusive results, and **fully funded by DAFM/RDP**.
 - **Whole herd test.** Blood sampling and testing of all animals in the herd with negative results or removal of any further virus-positive or inconclusive animals identified.
 - **Epidemiological Investigation.** Conducted under the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) within the Rural Development Programme.
 - **Vaccination** of all female animals aged 12 months old and above by the nominated PVP.
5. **Continued herd measures.** Following lifting of restrictions, herds are required to:
 - **Continue to tissue tag test** for a minimum of 24 months after the removal of the last animal with positive or inconclusive results.
 - **Continue the vaccination programme** in the herd in the following year, with this again delivered by the PVP and funded by DAFM.
 - **Not sell any potential trojan female** i.e. that was in calf at the time of birth of the animals with positive or inconclusive results until its calf has been born and tested for BVD.