BVD BIOSECURITY BEFORE BREEDING

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Before breeding commences, it is critical to review biosecurity practices in collaboration with the herd's veterinary practitioner. This is especially important for BVD, to minimise the likelihood of pregnant cattle being exposed to the virus in the coming months. While carried out with BVD in mind, attention to these areas will reduce the likelihood of introducing infectious diseases in general:

RISK OF BVD+ BIRTHS IN 2025

Proximity to other herds

Herds in the same locality as other herds with BVD virus positive results (BVD+) this year (herds within, or immediately adjacent to, the coloured hexagons in Figure 1) are at particular risk of having infection introduced in advance of this year's breeding season leading to the creation of further BVD+ calves to be born in 2025. This includes herds that have not had positive results previously. Recent analysis has shown that breeding herds within 400m of a positive herd have a one in seven chance of being positive the following year. Their biosecurity should be reviewed, including vaccination, and extra precautions taken by herdowners and visitors as explained below. The **maps on AHI's website** are updated monthly and may be checked to establish whether there have been recent cases in your area.

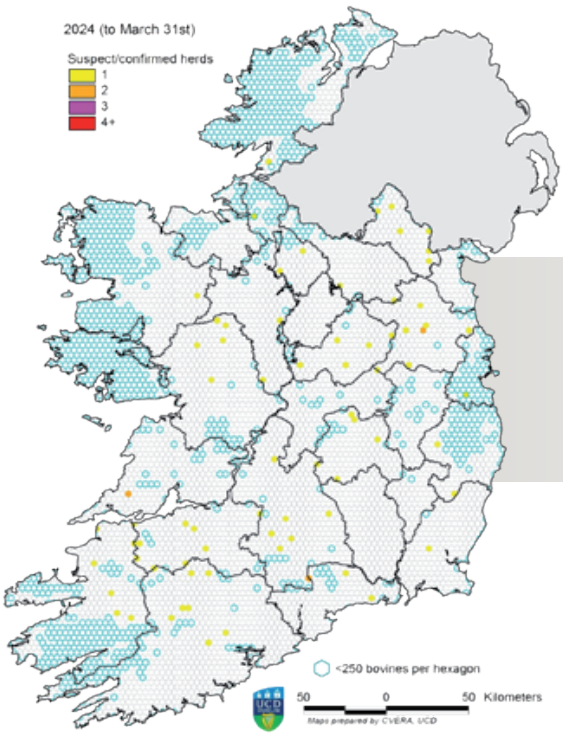

Figure 1. Map showing distribution of herds with births of BVD+ calves during 2024 until the 31st of March. Each hexagon represents an area of approximately 10km^2 (radius of 2km). Herds in these and adjacent hexagons are at increased risk of BVD+ births in 2025.

Boundary contact

Wherever possible, cattle up to 120 days of pregnancy should not graze at boundaries where nose to nose contact with other cattle is feasible.

Purchased cattle (or those returning from sales, shows or contract rearing)

Introduced cattle should be held in a quarantine facility (building or paddock) for at least 28 days. Pregnant animals should have their calves tested promptly and kept away from other pregnant animals until tested negative.

Movement of personnel without adequate attention to hygiene

All individuals coming onto a farm, including employees, relief workers, professional visitors (vet, AI, milk recorder, hoof trimmer etc.) including the farmer, should use farm specific boots and clothing or take steps to ensure that adequate cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed.

Equipment

Movement or sharing of large or small items of equipment should be avoided where possible. Otherwise, these should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before use.

Vaccination

While vaccination will not prevent the entry of BVD virus onto a farm (or IBR or Lepto), it can minimise the impact of accidental introduction.

RISKS OF FURTHER BVD+ BIRTHS IN 2024

Over 1.2 million calves have already been tested this year, accounting for 50% of this year's calf crop, with a very low percentage of calves and herds returning BVD+ results. Herds that have not yet completed calving in 2024 and that are in the same locality as herds that had BVD+ calves last year (herds within, or adjacent to, the coloured hexagons in Figure 2) are at particular risk of having had infection introduced last year, resulting in BVD+ births this year. These herds should tag and test promptly and review biosecurity to ensure that any BVD+ calves are detected as quickly as possible, preventing virus spread within the herd and transfer to other herds.

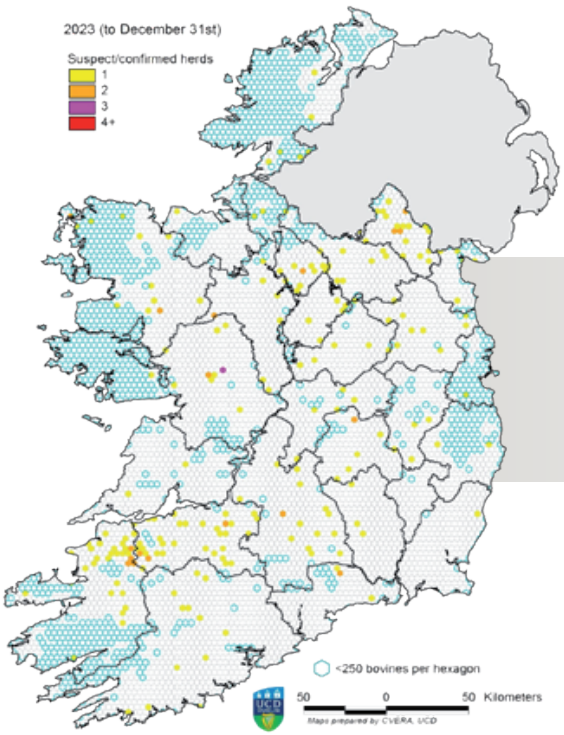

Figure 2. Map showing the distribution of herds with BVD+ births in 2023. Herds in these and adjacent hexagons are at increased risk of having BVD+ calves in 2024 and should ensure that calves are sampled and tested as soon as possible after birth and that biosecurity measures are in place.