



BVD ERADICATION

KEY MESSAGES 2025

Outlined below are key programme messages for 2025, including measures to further accelerate progress towards freedom, with a focus on prompt testing of calves and removal of suspects, prevention of onward transmission of infection from positive herds and testing of animals of unknown status, including those born before the 1st January 2013, to maximise the proportion of herds with Negative Herd Status (NHS).

KEY MESSAGES FOR ALL HERDS IN 2025

In support of these goals, these 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 and preventing introduction of infection

1. Tissue tag testing remains compulsory for 2025.
DAFM has announced supports towards BVD surveillance testing costs. This will be provided by way of a payment of €3.50 per calf and will be made directly to all farmers based on calves registered, up to a maximum of 25 calves per herd.
2. Tissue tag-test all calves as soon as possible after birth. Where positive or inconclusive tissue tag results are obtained, isolate and remove these calves promptly to obtain the higher financial support from DAFM. **Confirmatory testing of these animals is no longer permitted.**
3. Test any animals of unknown status to obtain NHS.
At the end of 2024, around 3% of breeding herds contained small numbers of animals without a valid test result for one or more animals. The presence of these animals prevents herds attaining NHS, accessing lower cost testing and most importantly contributing to the national target of at least 99.8% of herds and 99.9% of animals being BVD-free. It is a legal requirement to test all animals of unknown status, including those born before 2013.
4. New infections are often a result of transmission from other herds in the vicinity or introduction of pregnant dams carrying an infected calf. Review biosecurity to minimize these risks, with a focus on movement of animals (including pregnant dams), people (including the farmer) or equipment or contact across farm boundaries.
5. Farms that either share a boundary or are within 400m of a herd with a positive or inconclusive result will receive a neighbourhood notification. These herds should take every possible precaution to prevent the spread of BVD, with a view to minimising opportunities for either direct or indirect contact between the herd and cattle in the neighbourhood and to maintain good hygiene and biosecurity relating to movements of animals, people (both professional and farm family) and equipment.

Those signed up to the National Genotyping Programme will have Double Tissue Tags. Note that BVD samples through this scheme will require a new set of taggers. BVD sample bottles/vials and lab envelopes are white in colour whereas DNA sample bottles/vials and lab envelopes are pink. Ensure each sample type is going to the appropriate laboratory.

NATIONAL BVD ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Animal Health Ireland, 2-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim N41 WN27.



BVDFree
AnimalHealthIreland.ie

KEY MESSAGES FOR HERDS WITH POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS

- ✓ Immediate herd restriction and neighbour notification. DAFM will restrict moves both in and out. While restricted, movements out of the herd to slaughter or non-breeding herds only may be granted on a case-by-case basis under permit by the relevant Regional Veterinary Office (RVO), provided that the animals move directly to their destination. Herds within a 400m radius will immediately receive a biosecurity notification informing them of their increased risk, and on a weekly basis thereafter in the absence of removal of animal(s) with positive or inconclusive results.
- ✓ Prompt Isolation and removal of all animals with an initial positive or inconclusive test ear notch result. Re-testing of these animals is no longer permitted. Remove these promptly to obtain the higher financial support from 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.
- ✓ 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. A leaflet with advice on cleaning and disinfection is available [here](#).
- ✓ Conditions for lifting of restrictions. This requires completion of each of the following three measures by a nominated trained private veterinary practitioner (PVP), beginning at least four weeks after removal of the animal(s) with positive or inconclusive results, and fully funded by DAFM/RDP.
 - » Whole herd test. Blood sampling and testing of all animals in the herd.
 - » Epidemiological Investigation. Conducted under the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) within the Rural Development Programme.
 - » Vaccination of all female animals and breeding bulls aged 12 months old and above by the nominated PVP.
- ✓ Continued herd measures. Following lifting of restrictions, herds are required to:
 - » 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.
 - » 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.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HERDS THAT HAD POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS IN 2024

Herds that had a positive or inconclusive result in 2024 are required to undertake a second round of DAFM-funded **vaccination in 2025 of all female animals and breeding bulls aged 12 months old and above**. All eligible animals are to be vaccinated **before the start of the next breeding season** and this may be earlier than 12 months since the last vaccination round. It should give sufficient time for heifers to receive a completed primary course of vaccination prior to service. Reminders are being sent to the herd owners and their nominated veterinary practitioners.