



BVD ERADICATION

KEY MESSAGES 2026

PROGRAMME AIM

The BVD Eradication Programme is approaching completion. The focus for 2026 and beyond is to accelerate progress towards national BVD freedom by:

- ✓ **Early testing of calves.**
- ✓ **Rapid removal of positive or inconclusive animals.**
- ✓ **Preventing the re-introduction of infection.**
- ✓ **Maximising the number of herds with Negative Herd Status (NHS).**

KEY MESSAGES FOR ALL HERDS IN 2026

CALF TESTING

- Tissue tag testing of all calves remains compulsory in 2026.
- Calves should be tissue tag tested as soon as possible after birth.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- DAFM will continue to support BVD surveillance testing in 2026.
- A payment of €3.50 per calf, up to a maximum of 25 calves per herd, will be paid automatically based on calf registrations.

POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE CALF RESULTS

- Any calf with a positive or inconclusive tissue tag result must be:
 - » Isolated immediately.
 - » Removed as quickly as possible.
- **Confirmatory testing is no longer permitted.**
- Prompt removal is required to qualify for higher DAFM financial supports.

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ANIMALS OF UNKNOWN BVD STATUS

- All animals without a valid BVD test result must be tested.
- This includes animals born before 1 January 2013.
- The presence of even one untested animal:
 - » Prevents a herd from achieving NHS.
 - » Prevents access to lower-cost testing.
 - » Slows national progress towards eradication.
- Testing animals of unknown status is a legal requirement.

PREVENTING NEW INFECTIONS

New infections most commonly arise from:

- Contact with neighbouring herds.
 - » Direct - nose to nose contact.
 - » Indirect - through people or shared equipment or facilities.
- Introduction of animals, particularly pregnant dams.
- Herdowners should review and maintain biosecurity measures, with particular attention to:
 - » Animal movements (including purchased or returning animals).
 - » People (farm family, visitors, service providers).
 - » Shared equipment, facilities and farm boundaries.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTIFICATIONS

- Herds that share a boundary with, or are within 400 metres of, a herd with a positive or inconclusive result will receive a neighbourhood notification.
- These herds should take extra precautions to minimise:
 - » Direct contact.
 - » Indirect contact through people or equipment.
- Enhanced hygiene and biosecurity measures are strongly advised during this period.

NATIONAL GENOTYPING PROGRAMME

- Herds participating in the National Genotyping Programme will use double tissue tags.
- Separate equipment must be used:
 - » White bottles and envelopes – BVD samples.
 - » Pink bottles and envelopes – DNA samples.
- Ensure each sample type is sent to the correct laboratory.



KEY MESSAGES FOR HERDS WITH POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS IN 2026

IMMEDIATE MEASURES

- Herds will be restricted immediately.
- Neighbouring herds within 400 metres will be notified.
- Movements:
 - » Generally restricted.
 - » Movements to slaughter or non-breeding herds may be permitted on a case-by-case basis by the RVO, with direct movement only.

REMOVAL OF POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE ANIMALS

- All animals with an initial positive or inconclusive tissue tag result must be:
 - » Isolated immediately.
 - » Removed promptly.
- Re-testing is not permitted.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR REMOVAL

BEEF HERDS

- €320 if removed within 10 days.
- €30 if removed 11–21 days after the initial test.

DAIRY HERDS

- €200 for dairy heifers and dairy cross animals removed within 10 days.
- €30 if removed 11–21 days after the initial test.

LIFTING OF HERD RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions may be lifted once all three of the following DAFM-funded measures are fully completed and at least 4 weeks have passed following the removal of the last positive or inconclusive animal(s).

1. Whole Herd Test

- Blood sampling and testing of all animals.

2. Epidemiological Investigation

- Conducted under TASAH by a trained Private Veterinary Practitioner (PVP).

3. Vaccination

- All female animals and breeding bulls aged 12 months and over.
- Administered by the nominated PVP.

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ONGOING REQUIREMENTS - AFTER RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED

- Targeted pre-movement testing where required.
- Potential “Trojan” females (in calf at the time of removal of the animal(s) with positive/inconclusive results):
 - » Must not be sold while in calf.
 - » Calf must be born and tested before sale.
- Cleaning and Disinfection
 - » Buildings and handling facilities that may have been contaminated should be cleaned and disinfected:
 - As soon as is practicable.
 - In advance of the next breeding season.
- Continued tissue tag testing for at least 24 months.
- Continued vaccination in the following year:
 - » Delivered by the PVP.
 - » Fully funded by DAFM.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HERDS WITH POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS IN 2025

- Herds that had a positive or inconclusive result in 2025 are required to:
 - » Undertake a second round of DAFM-funded vaccination in 2026.
- This applies to:
 - » All female animals and all breeding bulls aged 12 months and over.
- Vaccination must be completed before the next breeding season.
- Reminders will issue to herd owners and their nominated PVPs.

SUMMARY MESSAGE

- **Ireland is very close to BVD freedom.**
- **Early testing, fast removal and strong biosecurity in 2026 are essential to finishing the job and achieving BVD Freedom.**

NATIONAL BVD ERADICATION PROGRAMME

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



BVD IMPLEMENTATION GROUP: Animal Health Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine | Irish Cattle Breeding Federation | Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association | Irish Co-Operative Society | Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association | Irish Farmers' Association | Irish Holstein Friesian Association | Meat Industry Ireland | Pedigree Cattle Breeders Council of Ireland | Teagasc | Tirlán | Veterinary Ireland