



## ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND

*To contribute to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health and welfare*

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### Press Release

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#### **First-ever major BVD cross-border public meeting**

#### **All-island BVD maps and shared vision to tackle disease**

A major public meeting on how BVD is being tackled on an all-island basis will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May next.

The meeting is being jointly hosted by Animal Health Ireland (AHI) and Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland (AHWNI) and will take place in Tommy Makem Centre, Keady, at 8pm and will explore how BVD is being tackled across the island. Speakers on the night include farm representatives, as well as representatives from AHI and AHWNI.

Both Northern Ireland and Ireland have made huge strides in controlling and eradicating the diseases, which remains a major threat to farms. As the island pushes towards BVD freedom, a ramping up of a collective effort is required to ensure that the disease is brought under control as quickly as possible.

While major progress has been made, recently released maps displaying the all-island incidence of BVD during 2025 illustrate the areas of higher incidence, primarily counties Armagh and Fermanagh in NI as well as Monaghan in Ireland.

This spike in incidence rates in these pockets has sparked a strong, coordinated initiative by AHWNI and AHI, who co-ordinate the respective BVD Programmes, to engage with affected communities on both sides of the border.

The public meeting, which all interested stakeholders are invited to, will provide an update on the current situation from vets working on the disease, and to have the opportunity to ask questions and join in the discussion on how to address the current issues.

BVD Programme manager at AHI, Dr Maria Guelbenzu said:

“Thanks to the huge efforts of farmers, vets, the industry and Government, we are pushing ahead in a strategic manner towards BVD freedom. We are very ambitious in our plans and we want to achieve freedom as quickly as possible. A key strategy is tackling BVD on an all-island basis. As we know, infectious diseases like BVD do not respect borders and we must work collectively and collaboratively in order to achieve BVD freedom once and for all.

“Working with AHWNI, AHI is working to suppress the virus across the island in order to reduce the risk of the disease returning. This is a key priority for AHI and we are determined to finish the job.”

**ENDS**

