

Breaking the BVD Cycle in Beef herds

Recommendations for controlling BVD, eliminating existing PIs
and preventing the creation of new PIs

Eliminate Existing PIs

The only way to truly eliminate BVD is to test all individual animals for BVD virus and remove those that are identified as positive, as soon as possible

Tag and test



Blood sample



Stop the Creation of new PIs

- Prevent contact with infected cattle over shared fencelines or at off-site grazing locations
- Test all purchased cattle for BVD virus before bringing them onto the farm.
Beware of pregnant cattle that could be carrying PI calves
- Vaccinate all breeding animals which are grazed off farm/who cant be protected against BVD infection during the mating and pregnancy periods
- Limit exposure to contaminated vehicles, equipment, and clothing from other farms

Herd level testing

Herd level testing can be used in herds that are determined to be free of BVD as a means to monitor the changes in their BVD status. In these situations youngstock antibody screening can be used. This involves testing 15, 10-18 month old heifers, from each management group, for BVD antibodies.

However, there are many complexities when interpreting the results of a youngstock screening test, such as vaccine use and maternal antibodies, and is therefore not included in the “BVD Free NZ” testing choices.

Youngstock screening can still be a valuable tool to monitor the BVD status in your herd however testing should be used on a case by case basis and with careful veterinary interpretation.