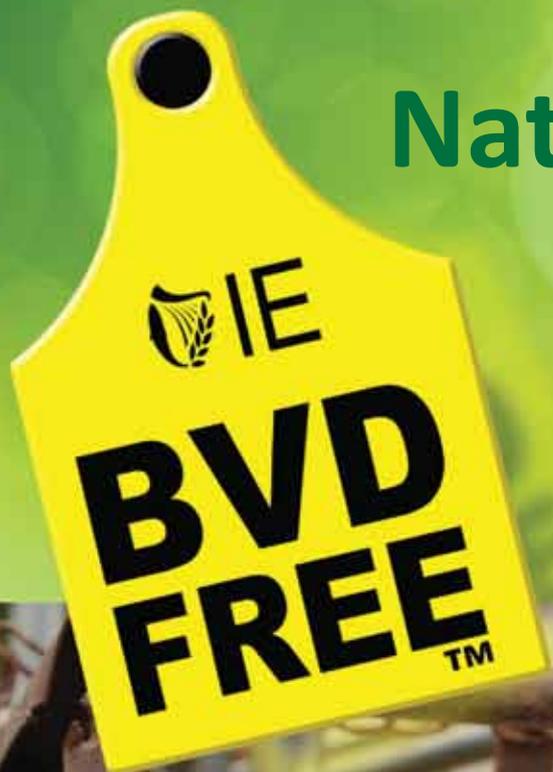


National Compulsory BVD Eradication Programme 2014

KEY MESSAGES



PCBCOI



www.bvdfree.ie



National Compulsory BVD Eradication Programme 2014

Key Messages for 2014

Tagging and submission of samples. Tag calves as soon as possible after birth. Store samples in a cool, dark place and submit samples to the testing laboratory within 7 days of collection.

Postage. The minimum fee for submitting tags through the postal system (even for one tag) is €1.05. However, **An Post has advised that the €1.05 fee should be sufficient for up to 10 samples, provided they are flat, rather than bulked up within the envelope.** Underpayment will lead to samples being detained by An Post. If you have more than 10 samples, it is advisable to take your package to the post office to ensure the correct postage is paid. Write your name, address and herd number on the top left hand corner of the envelope and make sure samples are properly packaged. Don't forget to place the samples in a plastic bag before putting them in the envelope.

Mobile phone number. To provide or update your mobile phone number for receiving results, contact 076 106 4590 or helpdesk@bvdfree.ie.

Positive and inconclusive calf results. Take a follow-up confirmatory test (blood sample or tissue tag) 3 weeks after taking the first positive sample. If the status of the dams of these calves is unknown, they also should be sampled. Consult your veterinary practitioner about further herd investigation to make sure that any other PI animals are identified and removed as quickly as possible.

Disposal of PIs. PI animals are a significant source of infection, posing a particular threat to pregnant stock in your own and neighbouring herds, with the risk of further PI calves being born the following season. It is recommended that PI animals are culled as soon as possible after being identified, but in any event **ALL PI animals should be culled before the start of the breeding season.** Failure to do so may result in additional tissue tag testing being required in your herd and increase the overall costs and duration of the national eradication programme. In addition, PI animals are likely to fail to thrive and to die, even if apparently normal at birth.

Biosecurity. Purchased stock (including pregnant cattle that may be carrying PI calves) and contacts at boundaries are the biggest risks for introducing infection that may in turn lead to the birth of further PI calves. Purchased animals should ideally be tested negative for BVD prior to purchase. Where pre-purchase testing is not possible, cattle should be isolated post-purchase until tested negative. Note that pregnant non-PI cattle may carry a PI calf if they were exposed to BVD virus during early pregnancy (known as Trojan cattle). Isolate any purchased in-calf heifers or cows until they have calved and the calf has tested negative for BVD virus. Where possible, manage grazing of pregnant stock at home and on out-farms, away from boundaries to minimize contact with cattle from other herds. For more details see www.biosecurity.ie

Database. All of your test results and programme letters are available to you on the ICBF database. For login details see www.ICBF.com.

Key Findings From 2013

- 0.68% of calves tested were PI
- PI animals should be culled as soon as possible after identification. Over 9,000 PIs identified in 2013 are now dead, but 3% of herds have retained PIs.
- 6.7% of PI calves had a PI dam; the remainder were born as PIs due to infection of their dams in early pregnancy.
- 11% of herds had one or more positive or inconclusive results; most of these herds had no more than one or two PIs.

For more information see www.bvdfree.ie or contact 076 106 4590