

## BVD Regulations Post June

We have been advised that from summer 2015, movement restrictions will be placed on farms that do not have a valid 'negative' status, herds currently 'not negative' need to work towards a negative status to avoid being caught up in restrictions and additional testing requirements. The specific start date for enforcing the new regulations is yet to be announced however is expected to be around 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015, at which point Scot Gov will place 'not negative' herds under movement restrictions.

Unless moving directly to slaughter, all animals in such herds must be tested individually as BVD virus negative pre-movement. If you can achieve a negative BVD status before the new rules are implemented you can avoid the restrictions and additional testing requirements.

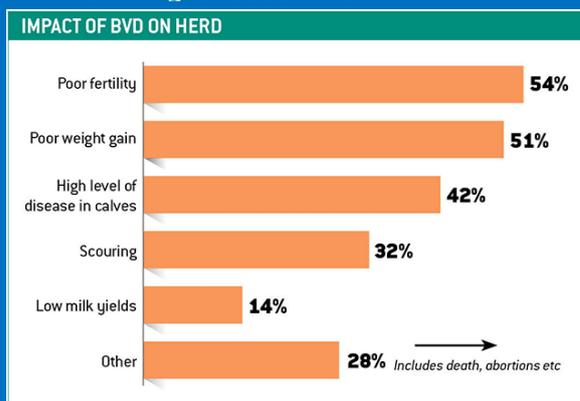
Negative herds are vulnerable to re-infection and losing this status. Therefore, it is very important to vaccinate against BVD and / or observe good biosecurity, eg avoiding contact with neighbours animals and quarantining and testing bought in stock. All herds, including 'Negative' herds, must check their status regularly, allowing status tests to slip further than 1 month from their due date will also trigger movement restrictions until testing is carried out.

### Options Post June

1. Check test – AVAILABLE FOR NEGATIVE HERDS ONLY
  - a. BEEF: Annually, bleed 5 homebred animals 9-18 months old per separately managed group for antibody (should not have been vaccinated or will give false positive result)
  - b. DAIRY: Every 6 months, bleed 10 homebred animals 9-18 months old per separately managed group for antibody (should not have been vaccinated or will give false positive result), animals bled must be the 5 oldest and 5 youngest within the 9-18mt group.
2. Calf Screen – Virus test ALL calves born (either by tissue tag or pooled blood samples)
3. All Animals – Virus test ALL animals within the herd (either by tissue tag or pooled blood samples)

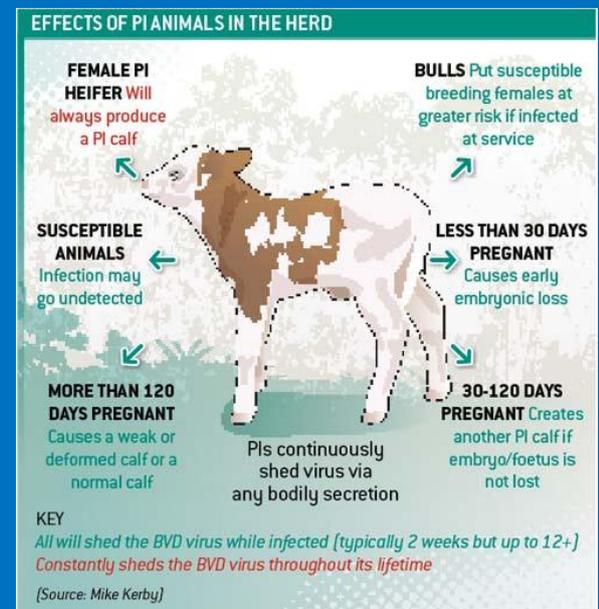
### FATTENING or STORE HERDS

Until this point only breeding herds were required to test. From the post June regulations animals entering a herd from untested herds will require tested i.e. Imported animals (including England) or animals from other non-breeding Scottish herds.



COURTESY OF FWI

Right; The effects of BVD  
 Left; Table showing why it is of major economic benefit in the long run to eradicate BVD from Scotland. BVD is a disease with a major effect on overall productivity and is a hidden drain on the success of affected farms



## Tightening your calving period pays!

After the launch of a beef herd bench-marking scheme in the borders last year the importance of keeping compact calving periods within the beef herd has been highlighted.

Not only did a compact calving period yield higher numbers of animals sold per year (and these at much higher weights), but it also found that calves born later and overwintered were averaging only 10kg heavier at the end of housing and still finished lighter than earlier born stock.

I.e. not only did you lose out on finishing weight but also had the added cost of feeding and bedding through this time, extra housing space needed and likely set backs from disease such as pneumonia, lice and lameness/traumas.

We now have access to a simple program requiring only information you already record that allows us to look at your calving patterns and help advise on how to go about improving which can save you both time and money. This may count towards the new SRDP support program allowing farmers to claim payment for participating in data recording. Please be in touch if you are interested.

Real figures combined from Scottish herds, scheme supported by zoetis

	Rear 87% calves Moderate calving pattern	Rear 94% calves Moderate calving pattern	Rear 94% calves Compact calving pattern
Calves reared %	87	94	94
Ave weight per calf weaned (kg)	274	274	299
Ave calf wt weaned per cow/heifer (kg)	238	258	281
Average price (p/kg)	2.00	2.00	2.00
Output per cow (£)	476	511	562
Change in output (£)		35	86
Change per 100 cow herd (£)		3,500	8,600

## SUBSIDIZED PNEUMONIA SEROLOGY

Did your calves suffer with coughing & pneumonia this winter? Now, before turning out, is the time to plan ahead to prevent the same problem next year! Currently we can bleed up to 6 calves to identify which respiratory bugs are in your herd. This allows us to plan a prevention strategy for next year and more appropriately advise on treatment.

Please speak to one of our vets for info.

## PRACTICE FOCUS – A SUCKLER HERD FERTILITY CASE

The owner of a suckler herd became concerned when a larger number of Spring calving cows than expected were showing heats after being joined with the bulls for 9-weeks. This concern was well founded when scanning revealed only half of the cows to be pregnant.

Semen testing of the bulls was carried out, but all was well here with all semen samples testing normal. This raised the possibility of an infectious cause of the subfertility which was a distinct possibility as the herd bought in breeding stock with minimal biosecurity measures.

Subsequently *Campylobacter fetus*, a venereally transmitted bacterial form of infertility, was isolated from vaginal mucus of barren cows and an aborted foetus from the group confirming a diagnosis of subfertility due to this infection.

*Campylobacter fetus* is transmitted during natural mating from the bull to the cow/heifer or vice versa. In bulls there are no signs of disease, however, infected females are infertile until they mount an immune response which can take several months or more and those that do conceive are at a higher risk of abortion.

For this affected herd after a prolonged mating period there were still 13% of the cows barren with further financial penalties for a prolonged calving period. Treatment is by adopting artificial insemination or use of an autogenous vaccine prepared from *the Campylobacter fetus* bacterium isolated from the affected herd (which is what this herd opted for). There is no commercially available vaccine in Europe. Prevention is by avoiding buying breeding stock that have previously been naturally mated as the infection can persist in the reproductive tract of bulls for life and for up to two years in females. This disease is not common but is probably under diagnosed. We have diagnosed it in two herds in the last three years but suspect there are more infected herds that have not been investigated. Only one infected animal is required to infect an entire herd and herds that buy in numbers of previously mated breeding stock run a high risk of eventually introducing an infected animal and experiencing a major fertility problem.

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