What can I do about it?

Doing anything to help control BVD is cost effective. Doing something is better than doing nothing.

To control BVD effectively you need to:

1. Identify and remove all persistently infected cattle on your farm. Seek vet help for this.

2. Virus test all new stock coming onto farm before mixing with others. Remove all virus positive PI cattle immediately.

3. and either:
   - vaccinate all breeding stock annually
   - virus test all keeper calves annually.

Persistently Infected Carriers

- Non-immune
- non-vaccinated
- pregnant less than 5 month

Why bother about it?

- Causes infertility in cows and bulls (later calving and more empty cows)
- Causes the birth of weaker, smaller and deformed calves
- Causes more common diseases like scours and pneumonia in calves and mastitis in cows
- Cattle that are persistently infected with BVD often do poorly and die early
- Impacts on milk production

And the good news?

On farm control is very possible and practical

Vets have the skills to help you!
Steps to control BVD on a dairy farm

- Check boundary fences are stock proof. Prevent contact with neighbours stock (e.g. electric outrigger).
- Organise BVD virus negative and vaccinated bulls. Ask for a certificate.
- Virus test all keeper calves and cull all PI.

**Dry Period**
- Monitor bulk tank BVD status
- Test all new entrants onto farm for virus before mixing including any calves kept as replacements from bought in pregnant cows. Cull all virus positive, PI animals.

**Calving**
- Vaccinate cows by at least 2 weeks prior to PSM
- Vaccinate replacement heifers and carry over cows if at risk of becoming infected.

**Mating**
- Book bulk tank milk testing for next season
- Review BVD control plan with your vet. Ensure staff understand the risks and the actions to control them.