

# BVD farm action planner

**What is my BVD risk?** If you answer yes to any of the below questions, your farm could be at risk.

| Risk area                      | Ask yourself                                                                      | Yes | No |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| <b>Buying in stock</b>         | Do you buy in cows, heifers, calves or bulls?                                     |     |    |
| <b>Borrowing or leasing</b>    | Do you lease, borrow or share bulls or other cattle?                              |     |    |
| <b>Off-farm grazing</b>        | Do replacement heifers or carry-over cows graze off farm?                         |     |    |
| <b>Returning in-calf stock</b> | Do pregnant animals return from grazing or another property?                      |     |    |
| <b>Boundary contact</b>        | Can cattle make contact with neighbouring stock across fences?                    |     |    |
| <b>Unknown BVD status</b>      | Do you ever mix animals before their BVD status is known?                         |     |    |
| <b>Calf replacements</b>       | Are you rearing/buying replacement calves that haven't been tested for BVD virus? |     |    |
| <b>Bull status</b>             | Are any bulls being used for mating without a negative BVD test?                  |     |    |

## Why this matters

BVD often enters through cattle movements, off-farm grazing, infected PI animals, bulls, or boundary contact. Protect pregnancies by testing before mixing and vaccinating before mating.

**Persistently infected (PI) animals** - When a cow is infected with BVD during early pregnancy, it may result in a calf that cannot mount an immune response and constantly sheds the virus throughout its lifetime.

# Annual bvd plan

Plan and adjust according to your individual farm dates around mating and calving

| When (Spring calving example)   | Focus area                                | Checklist                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Why it matters                                                            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May–early July                  | <b>Dry period / pre-calving</b>           | Book bulk tank BVD testing.<br>Review last season's results with your vet.<br>Check boundary fences.<br>Confirm vaccine product, dose schedule and mob list with your vet.                                                              | Book testing and vaccination early so there is time to act before mating. |
| July–October                    | <b>Calving</b>                            | Test weak, small, sick, suspect or keeper calves early.<br>Isolate virus-positive animals until status confirmed.<br>Remove confirmed PI animals promptly.<br>Record calf test results and dam details.                                 | PI animals shed virus for life.                                           |
| August–October                  | <b>Monitoring + pre-mating</b>            | Run bulk milk BVD screening once cows are milking.<br>Investigate active infection or recent exposure with your vet.<br>Confirm bulls are BVD virus-negative.<br>Vaccinate cows, heifers and bulls as advised before mating.            | Protect early pregnancy and reduce new PI calf risk.                      |
| Anytime                         | <b>Buying, borrowing or leasing stock</b> | Ask for proof of BVD status before animals arrive.<br>Virus test any animals of unknown status.<br>Quarantine new arrivals for 4 weeks before mixing.<br>Take extra care with pregnant animals because they may carry a PI calf.        | Stock movement is a major entry risk.                                     |
| Before return and before mixing | <b>Returning grazing stock</b>            | Confirm any mixing of mobs at grazing.<br>Test returning heifers/carry-over cows if status is unknown.<br>Do not mix if status is unknown.                                                                                              | Returning in-calf animals need extra care.                                |
| Anytime                         | <b>Other risk factors</b>                 | Check boundary fences are in good condition.<br>(Double fence from neighbours where possible.)<br>Vaccinate calves and other stock classes as advised.<br>Ensure any equipment and vehicles coming on farm are cleaned and disinfected. | Everyday biosecurity gaps can allow BVD to enter or spread                |

## The 3 key rules

### 1. Ask

Ask for BVD status before buying, leasing or grazing stock.

### 2. Test

Virus test at-risk animals before mixing with the herd.

### 3. Protect

Vaccinate breeding cattle before mating, following vet advice.

## Talk to your vet

Use this as a template for a seasonal planning tool, not a replacement for veterinary advice. Individual farm plans will vary depending on calving patterns, risk factors and management options.