

# Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV)

## Keeping BVDV out of your herd

The dangers of persistent  
infection and a simple  
control strategy



Test With Confidence™

**IDEXX**

## Persistent BVDV infection is costly

**BVDV is estimated to cost producers \$30 per head** in additional feed conversion and medical expenses even after vaccination.<sup>1</sup> Persistent BVDV infection takes root even before a calf enters your herd. Between days 30 and 150 of gestation, a pregnant BVDV-infected cow passes the virus on to its fetus, resulting in a persistently infected (PI) calf.

Once in the herd, PI animals continuously shed huge quantities of the virus for as long as they live. About half of these calves are poor doers and die before one year of age. While calf mortality is costly, the surviving **PI animals appear healthy and continue to infect the herd throughout their lives.**

PI animals can infect between 60%–70% of your herd. And because BVDV is immunosuppressive, **infection leaves cattle sick and susceptible to other illnesses like Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD).**<sup>2</sup>

## Follow this three-step approach to control BVDV

**1** Test your herd, starting with calves. If a calf tests negative, the dam is negative.

**2** Test all herd introductions and newborn calves (including stillborn calves and aborted fetuses).

**3** Remove all PI animals from your herd and work with your veterinarian to develop a vaccination and biosecurity program.

## Test to protect your profits

**Testing is the only way to identify PIs** so you can remove them from the herd. Removing PI animals reduces mortality and morbidity in the herd and saves money that would otherwise be spent doctoring sick cattle.

**BVDV is a virus. Antibiotics cannot cure it.** Vaccines help minimize the severity of disease but they do not completely eliminate PIs.

### Determining BVDV status has economic benefits:

- BVDV-tested beef calves command higher prices at auction.
  - Buyers at 2012 Superior Livestock auctions paid an average of \$2.42 per hundredweight more for BVDV-tested calves to eliminate the risk of introducing persistently infected animals into their herds.<sup>3</sup> The cost advantage (\$14.52 per head on a 600 lb. calf) far exceeds the cost of testing and improves your bottom line.
- Eliminating BVDV improves profits in dairy operations.
  - Higher exposure is correlated with higher somatic cell count averages, which decreases milk production and price premiums.<sup>4</sup>



*“We always thought that there was something going on that we were not able to control. That was before we got this PI test...In the last 6 months we’ve bought only one case of antibiotics. We used to buy a case every week.”*

Scott & Todd Harvey - Hydro, Oklahoma

## Rely on IDEXX BVDV tests for easy, accurate, cost-effective testing

- Large ear notches simplify chute-side sampling.
- The IDEXX BVDV PI X2 Test is the only USDA-licensed ELISA.
- The IDEXX SNAP® BVDV Test is the only USDA-licensed rapid test that detects BVDV in 20 minutes.

For more information about **Managing Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus**, please contact your IDEXX representative or visit [idexx.com/bvdv](http://idexx.com/bvdv).

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#### Reference:

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2. Loneragan GH, Thomson DU, Montgomery DL, Mason GL, Larson RL. Prevalence, outcome, and animal-health consequences of feedlot cattle persistently infected with bovine viral diarrhoea virus. *JAVMA*. 2005; 226(4):595-601.
3. Where's the value? Drovers CattleNetwork. <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/drovers/Wheres-the-value-195684561.html> Accessed September 4, 2013
4. Voges H, Nash M, Totter T. The impact of herd exposure to BVD on somatic cell count levels and regional variation of BVD exposure amongst herds in New Zealand; September 16-19, 2008; ESVV Pestivirus Symposium, Uppsala Sweden.

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