

BVD Advice Note following SMS message regarding Low Risk Herd Status

When the NI BVD programme was introduced in 2013, the intention was that with time 'Low Risk Status' herds should be identified and shared with herd owners. If you have received a text message from AHWNI advising you that your herd has attained BVD Low Risk status, then according to our records, your herd has met the criteria currently required to be categorised by AHWNI as a BVD Low Risk Status herd. Please note that the criteria used at present may be changed in the future, for example to meet external trading requirements.

Low risk herd criteria

The Low Risk herd criteria are as follows:

1. All cattle in the herd and associated herds have a BVD Negative status (applied directly or indirectly)
2. No BVD Positive animals have been identified in the herd in the previous 12 months.

A list of herds that meet the criteria is produced by AHWNI in conjunction with DAERA on a monthly basis and it is AHWNI's intention to inform herd owners when their herd enters the Low Risk category. It is expected that the number of eligible herds will increase over time, as disease incidence decreases and as farmers realise the advantage of 'filling in the gaps' in their stock's BVD status profile. While your herd has been assigned Low Risk Status this month, it is possible for the Status to be removed, should the criteria listed above not be met in the future.

Maintenance of Low Risk Herd Status

In order to maintain the Low Risk Status of your herd, it is vital that you take biosecurity practices seriously on your farm. Significant disease risks occur when animals are added to your herd or when there are contacts between your stock and neighbouring stock. A series of Biosecurity Information leaflets (listed below) are available for your information on the AHWNI website:

- Bio-exclusion: Keeping Infectious Diseases out of your herd
- Understanding Infectious Disease
- Preventing Disease Spread within your farm
- Purchasing Stock: Reduce Disease Risks.

Your veterinary surgeon can provide you with advice tailored to your farm management and you are encouraged to discuss with them any potential changes that may affect your herd's biosecurity, such as whether or not to vaccinate against BVD. Vaccination will not prevent the BVD virus entering a farm, however it can reduce the impact of accidental introduction.

Consent form

Please return the consent form (see below) to AHWNI, by post or e-mail, in order to allow your herd details to be shared with tag suppliers and laboratories, for the purpose of availing of lower cost testing, should that be made available by your tag supplier. The returns will be collated by AHWNI; tag suppliers should be able to check the shared list when herd owners make tag purchases and indicate their eligibility.

Tag suppliers and laboratories are being made aware of these developments. Any potential savings arrangements and the identification of sample packages is a matter for tag suppliers and laboratories to discuss on a one-to-one basis.

Loss of Low Risk Herd Status

In the event of your herd having a breakdown, your herd will no longer be regarded as having a BVD Low Risk status. AHWNI will update the Low Risk herd list on a regular basis and issue it to tag suppliers and laboratories involved in Low Risk testing.

What you need to do

Please complete and return the form below, in hard copy or by e-mail within one week of receiving the Low Risk status communication from AHWNI, to indicate that your data (Herd Number) may be shared by AHWNI with tag suppliers and laboratories for the purposes of running a tag discount scheme.

AHWNI is responsible for the delivery of the Northern Ireland Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication Scheme. For more information on the operation of the Scheme, please contact AHWNI (email info@animalhealthni.com, tel 028 7963 9333) or visit the AHWNI website www.animalhealthni.com.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact AHWNI.

DISCLAIMER

NO BIOLOGICAL TEST IS 100% ACCURATE. IF AN INACCURATE RESULT IS SUSPECTED, THE ANIMAL SHOULD BE ISOLATED AND RE-TESTED.

All designated laboratories are independently accredited for BVD testing and the test methods used (ELISA or RT-PCR) will, in the great majority of cases, accurately detect the presence or absence of virus in tissue and blood samples when submitted and tested correctly. However, results relate only to the sample as received by the laboratory and, whilst laboratories warrant that their tests will meet their applicable declared specifications, the laboratories make no other warranty, expressed or implied and accept no responsibility or liability in respect of false results which are within the limits of the declared specifications of the tests offered.

No representation, warranty or liability is given by either, Animal Health and Welfare NI Ltd, or any member, employee or other person connected with any of the foregoing bodies as to the accuracy of any BVD test methods or test results [referred to herein].

AHWNI/ DATA PROTECTION FORM/ BVD LOW RISK HERD INFORMATION

Herd Owner name:	
Herd Owner address:	
Herd Number(s):	
<p>I am content that my herd details may be shared with tag suppliers and laboratories by AHWNI, for the purpose of availing of a tag discount scheme.</p> <p>Name (CAPS):</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Date:</p> <p><i>Any personal data shared by you with AHWNI for this purpose will be handled in accordance with GDPR requirements.</i></p>	

Return this form as soon as possible.

By e-mail to: info@animalhealthni.com

By post to: AHWNI,
Box 10 Dungannon Business Cube,
Dungannon Enterprise Centre,
2 Coalisland Road,
Dungannon BT71 6JT.