

# BVD Programme Guidance on Cleansing and Disinfection



Animal Health & Welfare NI  
**BVD Eradication  
Programme**

[www.bvdni.com](http://www.bvdni.com)

Cleaning and disinfection (C&D) are critical parts of all biosecurity programmes. The aim of C&D is to decrease the load of disease-causing organisms significantly to a point where disease transmission does not occur, however elimination of the risk cannot be guaranteed.

## **BVD virus survival**

The BVD virus is relatively fragile and will not survive for extended periods outside the animal. Infectivity is likely to have disappeared after 3-4 weeks, however damp, cold and dark conditions favour virus survival. (It is advisable not to graze pregnant cattle on ground treated with slurry/ manure from positive stock for as long as possible, but any risk of animals acquiring infection should be significantly reduced after two months.) This means that following an outbreak of BVD, C&D should be carried out on relevant areas and articles to minimise the risk of carry-over of infection, particularly where in-calf stock are present.

## **Risk of indirect spread**

It is possible for the virus to be transferred between animals and between herds indirectly. Persistently Infected (PI) animals shed virus in all secretions and excretions, including dung, urine, milk and colostrum, saliva and discharges from the nose, eyes and reproductive tract. Movement of these substances between groups or farms on contaminated clothing or equipment are potential means of transferring the virus. Thorough C&D should be carried out on all shared items to minimise the risk of transmission in this way.

## **Cleansing and Disinfection following a BVD outbreak**

### **What to clean:**

- Relevant accommodation (including calf pens/ hutches, calving pens, isolation facilities), yards and crushes
- Trailers, equipment (for example, calving aids, nose tongs, buckets, feeders), clothing and footwear with which BVD Positive cattle have been in contact.

# Process of cleaning and disinfecting

To maximize effectiveness, focus on these steps:

## **1. Cleaning:**

Remove as much organic material as possible (shovel/scrape): faeces, urine, mucus, skin debris, feed, etc.

## **2. Washing:**

Remove all remaining organic matter, ideally with a high-pressure washer. Start hosing at the top and work down to the floor. Clean walls thoroughly as a lot of virus may be present on them. (Soaking surfaces before washing will cut down the amount of time needed to do a complete job.)

## **3. Disinfecting:**

Use an approved DAERA approved disinfectant at the appropriate concentration. See <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/approved-disinfectants>.

Apply Health & Safety precautions. Unless surfaces are completely cleaned (none-to-minimal organic matter present), disinfection will not be effective: most are inactivated when they contact organic material. Spray with disinfectant from top to bottom. Read the label to make sure proper contact time is provided. Rinse off the disinfectant where appropriate.

## **4. Drying time:**

Allow sufficient time for extended drying so that all moisture can evaporate from the building/ surfaces.

*Each step of the process is dependent on the successful completion of the previous steps.*



**Animal Health  
& Welfare NI**

[www.animalhealthni.com](http://www.animalhealthni.com)

Unit 49, Dungannon Enterprise Centre,  
2 Coalisland Rd, Dungannon,  
Co Tyrone, BT71 6JT  
Tel: 028 79639333  
Email: [info@animalhealthni.com](mailto:info@animalhealthni.com)