

BVD Programme Guidance on Isolation of high risk BVD animals



Animal Health & Welfare NI

BVD Eradication Programme

www.bvdni.com

Which animals need to be isolated?

Isolation of an infectious or potentially infectious bovine is a requirement under the BVD Control Order (NI) 2016. This applies to cattle with a BVD Positive result, Inconclusives, Dams and Offspring of Persistently Infected (PI) animals. In addition, any animal that the keeper believes may be infected (for example, calves showing clinical signs of BVD on a farm with confirmed infection) should be separated from healthy stock. Cattle should be isolated on the holding as soon as the BVD results are received or clinical signs noted.

Why isolate?

Isolation of infectious or potentially infectious stock reduces the risk of the BVD virus spreading to healthy animals, particularly in-calf stock, and so may prevent virus circulating in the herd and shorten the length of time for which the BVD virus is present on the farm.

Isolation premises

The affected cattle must be isolated within housing (i.e. not outdoors) to prevent direct or indirect contact with other susceptible animals. This means that the isolation premises should be a discrete unit that is secure and suitable for housing bovine animals. It should have a separate airspace and separate drainage from other farm buildings. There must not be any physical nose-to-nose contact possible with other cattle or sheep and sharing of equipment (including handling facilities) or utensils with other groups of stock should be avoided.

Animal welfare

The welfare of an animal in isolation is important and it is recognised that on occasion an isolated animal may need to be kept with another bovine animal (the minimum number of animals should be used). The animal accompanying the infectious/ potentially infectious animal should have had a BVD virus Negative test result and it should not be a possible onward transmitter of BVD (that is, not an in-calf female, or a bull/ bull calf intended for breeding). Animals being kept in isolation should not be bred. They should be checked regularly for any signs of disease or illness.

Personnel

Anyone entering a BVD isolation facility should wear footwear and clothing that is dedicated for the premises, or that can be cleansed and disinfected before leaving. Care should be taken to avoid the transfer of potentially infective material on clothing or hands, especially when going from one group of animals to another. Visitors to the farm should not be allowed to enter the isolation facility and they should take care to clean and disinfect footwear and waterproof clothing both on arrival and before departure.

Milking procedures

BVD Positive animals should be milked at a separate time to BVD Negative animals, preferably going through the parlour last. The milking equipment and parlour should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, including contaminated external surfaces of equipment, walkways and gates. Milk from BVD Positive cows should not be fed to calves.

Feed, bedding, machinery and equipment

- Ideally the isolation facility should not be used to store feed or equipment. If this is unavoidable and the isolation building is used for storage of feed, bedding, machinery or equipment that are intended for use on the farm, the cattle in isolation should not be able to make direct contact with the items.
- Feed should not be taken from an in-use isolation facility and fed to livestock elsewhere on the farm.
- Used bedding and manure should not be stored on another part of the farm – it must be disposed of as a Category 2 Animal By-Product, such as by composting or spreading on land. 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.
- Ideally machinery and equipment should remain in the isolation facility while infectious or potentially infectious animals are present.
- If machinery or equipment is also being used on another part of the farm (where livestock could access it) it should be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected using DAERA approved disinfectants at the appropriate concentration when leaving the BVD isolation facility.

Movement out of isolation

Affected stock must remain in isolation except for the following circumstances:

- Receipt of a BVD Negative retest result
- Slaughter
- Milking, with immediate return to the isolation premises
- Veterinary treatment (movement must be licensed by DAERA if the treatment is taking place at a different location).

Once the isolation facility is emptied of BVD Positive animals, cleansing and disinfection of the facility using DAERA approved disinfectants at the appropriate concentration should be completed.

[See Cleansing and Disinfection Guidance Note.]



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