

## **Need for BVD testing in advance of September slaughter ban**

Farmers are being advised to make sure that all cattle moving to slaughter from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 have been tested for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) and have evidence of a Negative test result. From that date, DAERA will be taking enforcement measures (potentially leading to significant fines) when cattle that have not been tested for BVD are moved to a slaughterhouse, so it is vital that the BVD statuses of cattle are checked before they are moved from herds.

Under the BVD Eradication Scheme legislation, all calves born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 should be tissue sampled within 20 days of birth and the tissue sample should be dispatched to an approved laboratory within 7 days of taking the sample for testing for BVD virus. Untested animals may not be moved from a holding until they are sampled and a negative test result for that sample obtained from an approved laboratory. Calves that are to be reared and finished in their natal herd before going directly to slaughter should also be tested for BVD within 20 days of birth.

In order to verify the BVD status of cattle recorded in a herd, farmers can check the Animal Health & Welfare NI (AHWNI) database, which can be logged onto using a Government Gateway ID and password. Alternatively an APHIS herd list may be checked. It is recommended that any untested animals are isolated within housing until there is evidence that they have tested negatively for the presence of the BVD virus.

Testing can be carried out using a supplementary tissue tag or by using a blood sample taken by a vet. Non-negative BVD statuses are now listed on TB test sheets, so at the time of TB testing your vet can highlight to you any animals that should be BVD tested.

AHWNI is responsible for the delivery of the Northern Ireland BVD Eradication Scheme. For more information on the operation of the Scheme, please contact AHWNI (email [info@animalhealthni.com](mailto:info@animalhealthni.com), telephone 028 7963 9333) or visit the AHWNI website [www.animalhealthni.com](http://www.animalhealthni.com).