

BVD legislation, Testing and Practical Tips for Vet practices

Dear member practice,

As of 1st July 2024, it will become law that **all Welsh holdings** are required to know their BVD status, and they will be required to complete their first annual screen by the end of **June 2025**.

As a practice you will need to register with the **EID CYMRU** database (an interim version) to allow you access through a vet portal onto the BVD section. This section will list the BVD status, screening result and history of your farm clients who have been tested after 1st July 2024.

All holdings will begin as **BVD not negative**, as there will be no historical data transferred onto the database. We are seeking clarification on the position regarding current CHECS accredited herds.

Farmers will receive notification of the requirement to carry out a BVD screen at the same time as their annual TB test.

Annual screen: Doing it at the time of an annual or other whole herd TB test would be advisable as you will see all the groups of animals, it saves the client a callout fee, negates extra handling and ensures suitable animals are present for screening (see below). However, each herd is different and you need to use your clinical judgment as to the most appropriate time to undertake a screen.

The antibody screen is to be carried out, ideally, on **5 home bred and reared animals, 9 -18 months** of age and not vaccinated for BVD **from each management group**. If there are fewer than five calves in a group, then test all the calves in the group.

There will be a range of options for alternative groups if the above is not available.

See Annex A

The submission form for the testing will require a number of fields to be completed and will require signatures of both the vet and the farmer. This form is available in a prepopulated format for practices to access via Iechyd Da - Dewin webpage:

https://dewin.i-da.co.uk/users/sign_in or on the WVSC website

See <https://www.wvsc.wales/submission-forms/>

If all the form requirements are completed accurately then the laboratory results will be loaded onto the EID Cymru database and both farmer and vet will be notified of the status using the contact details on the submission form.

Antibody Screen Results:

1. If the results are all antibody negative, then the farm gets the BVD **negative** status.
(No certificates will be issued in the new scheme)
2. If there are any positives, then farm remains BVD **nonnegative**:



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- a. If there is one positive out of a screen, then it is advised that another screen of that management group is completed at least **three weeks later** to check for further antibody seroconversion.
- b. If 2 or more out of 5 are positive, then a **whole herd PI hunt** should be planned to be undertaken, in stages if necessary, and biosecurity, with specific reference to BVD infection, reviewed on the farm.

Please note there is no requirement to carry out a PI hunt on farms finishing cattle direct to slaughter. However, it is recommended that biosecurity / cattle sourcing etc is reviewed as good practice.

Please be aware that the PI hunt will require sampling of all bovines in the herd. At present the database will not be able to distinguish which is the dam of a calf at this stage.

Carrying out a PI hunt in the light of positive results **will not be compulsory in the first year of the scheme but will be strongly advised, because if there is an undetected PI it will cause problems going forward.**

Any PI cattle subsequently detected will be required to go into isolation. For further information see [The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea \(Wales\) Order 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk) **It will be an offence from 1/7/2024 to sell on a known PI animal to another holding, other than direct to slaughter.**

The vets in the WVSC will be able to give advice regarding results and testing, (however they will not have access to results from other laboratories automatically). This is a service offered on a voluntary basis as a stimulus to get the scheme underway.

WVSC BVD helpline number: 01970612374, during office hours, Monday to Friday.

For database enquiries please call 01970597428. This will be managed by Livestock Movement Wales offices who will be responsible for the database

If your practice holds Gwardu BVD postage boxes, they are still valid for use. There isn't a requirement for rapid postage, but if you do want the results by day 2 of TB testing, then you will need to post for next day delivery.

With very best wishes,

Iechyd Da
Ifan Lloyd MRCVS
Gareth Mulligan MRCVS
Phil Thomas MRCVS
George Roberts MRCVS



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Annex A

Where the preferred screening group is not available, options (b) and (c) should be followed in order:

b) Ten unvaccinated calves aged 0 - 9 months.

If any of the sample calves are aged 0-9 months, then you should take a sample of blood from not less than ten unvaccinated calves in the age range 0-9 months in each separately managed group. If there are fewer than ten calves in a group, then test all the calves in the group.

c) Five unvaccinated cattle over 18 months.

If there are no calves in any of the advised sampling categories, only then can you choose to use the following method: You should take a sample of blood from not less than five unvaccinated animals from each separately managed group.



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