

Commercial Herd BVD Control Plan



Animal Profiling International has developed this plan to assure the costly effects of a BVD PI are not present in a herd. Once negative, our goal is to keep BVD from causing devastating economic losses. BVD Control involves PI screening along with proper vaccination, making sure new arrivals are negative, and overall good animal handling and welfare management of the herd. Operations should work with their veterinarian to design a complete vaccination program to manage the risk of other common cattle diseases.

Commercial Beef Herd BVD Control Plan

Year 1: (Follow Beef Herd BVD PI Screening Protocol)

1. **All calves born alive** should be tested for BVD PI status prior to bull turnout.
2. **All Yearling Heifers** – heifers should be tested prior to breeding for BVD PI status.
3. **Open Cows** – If cows do not have a calf, they need to be tested
4. **Bulls** – Bulls should be purchased as BVD PI negative. If not, bulls should be tested prior to breeding season.
5. **If all animals are negative, move on to YEAR 2.** If a positive animal is found consult with API and your veterinarian on vaccination and management options to alleviate problem. A positive herd should repeat the year 1 plan the second year to make sure the changes in management and removal of the PI animals have fixed the problem.

Year 2 and beyond: (Surveillance)

1. **Calves from first calf heifers (Two-year-olds)** - Our experience and results have identified this group to be the highest risk population on the ranch. If BVD is re-introduced on a ranch this group is the most susceptible. These should be tested ideally at birth when normal tagging is being done. Branding/marking/vaccination is also an option.
2. **Maintain testing new arrivals** – Purchase breeding bulls, heifers, and cows that have been tested BVD PI negative prior to delivery. If they were not tested they should be tested prior to commingling with herd.
3. **Dead / Aborted Animals** – If possible collect an ear notch from these animals. A veterinarian should be consulted to do a complete workup if an operation is seeing an abnormal increase in deathloss or sickness.
4. **Optional** - Some operations elect to continue sampling all calves based on the benefit of marketing BVD PI negative animals.

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