



## BVD—PI CONTROL PT. II

Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus causes a wide variety of clinical disease in cattle including pneumonia and infertility. We previously discussed how a BVD-PI or Persistently Infected animal is created and how these PI animals shed extremely high levels of virus, causing disease in their herd mates. So how do we prevent BVD-PI's?

BVD-PI control is primarily a three legged program. 1) Herd Bio-security 2) Herd immunity through sound Vaccination Programs. 3) Identify and remove PI animals from the herd.

**Herd Bio-security** means avoiding exposure of your cattle to someone else's cattle that may be carrying BVD or other diseases. If you purchase bulls for breeding they should always be tested for BVD. You shouldn't borrow or share bulls with other herds unless both herds and all bulls have been tested. If you purchase open or young cattle they should be tested. If you purchase pregnant cattle all their calves should be tested when born and if any calf is positive for BVD-PI, the dam should be tested also. All PI dams will have a PI calf, but not all PI calves are from PI dams (your vet can explain more).

**Herd immunity** starts with sound nutrition and the number one nutrient of importance to the immune system is Energy (not micro-minerals, vitamins, or protein, though these are important too). Once adequately fed, we can boost the immune system to specific pathogens through vaccination. Our practice

group has had very good success minimizing BVD effects, including minimizing BVD-PI's, with Modified-Live BVD vaccines. There are other individuals who like killed vaccines, but you must use them according to label to get a benefit. Typically, Modified live vaccines must be given prior to the breeding period for best results, but talk to your veterinarian for specific recommendations and vaccine options.

Identify and Remove, or **Test and Cull** is the third leg of the program. PI animals cannot be cured. They will remain carriers until they die or are sent to slaughter. To completely protect your herd from BVD-PI's and their effects you must be sure there are no PI's lurking in the herd. While some PI's may look like poor-doers, others look completely normal and can live up to 3+ years of age. There is a wealth of data showing tremendous economic losses in feedlot cattle, cow-calf operations, and dairies when one PI animal is in the herd

The best testing approach for **feedlots or dairy heifer raisers** is to test every incoming animal. These calves can be **ear notched** and run as a pooled PCR test. Cost to run the test is around \$3.00 per head.

For **cow-calf operations** testing should be focused on purchased animals (and their future calves if the cows are pregnant), incoming Bulls, and newborn calves. If you have a closed herd and want to screen your herd to be sure you're negative you should test all newborn calves, any dams of positive calves, and all bulls and future bulls.

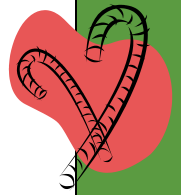
## December 2011

**HOLIDAY HOURS:**

**CLOSED**

**12/26/11**

**1/2/12**



Don't forget about getting your feed samples tested this winter!

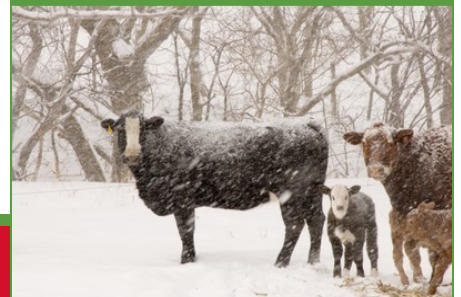
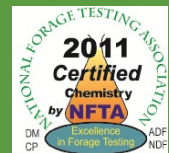


**Contact Info:**

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Come visit us at WA Hay Growers Assc. Conference January 11th and 12th at Three Rivers Convention Hall in Kennewick, WA!



*Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



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**Dairies** need to focus on two areas; calves and the milk herd. Calves can be ear notched at birth or at Bangs age, but remember you're exposing all the calves in the weaning pens if you wait until Bangs or 4+ months. Again, any dams of positive calves should be tested.

The milk herd should be screened with a bulk tank milk sample. One can either submit a sample of the entire herd bulk tank or submit a sample for each individual string of cows after a drip sample is collected on each string. Bulk tank testing involves a PCR that will cost around \$50.00 per sample. While PI's in milking herds are not common, they are definitely being found at a higher rate than some of us expected. \$50.00 is cheap insurance to make sure your herd is PI free. Annual bulk tanks should be tested, then if a tank is positive we'll usually do string samples next, followed by ear notching of every animal in the string(s) that is positive. Again, don't forget to test new bulls entering the herd.

Contact Ag Health Labs with questions about ear notching techniques, sample submissions, and shipping options. If you have specific questions about BVD-PI's, testing strategies, or vaccination programs contact your herd veterinarian or Dr. Fred.

For more information go to: [http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts\\_waddl/dx/BVD.aspx](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts_waddl/dx/BVD.aspx)

### BVD- PI Testing Strategy : Dairy

