



BVD TESTING – MAKE SURE YOUR STATUS IS UP TO DATE

Every cattle breeding herd in Scotland needs to carry out a test for BVD using a method approved by the Scottish Government. The two commonest methods are the 'check test' and 'tissue sampling' all calves born using ear tags.

CHECK TESTS: Don't forget to carry out your 'check test' before calves are turned out to grass. The check test requires blood sampling calves from each separately managed group of homebred calves aged 9-18 months. Beef herds need to sample FIVE calves from each group ANNUALLY, whilst dairy herds need to sample TEN calves from each group every SIX-MONTHS. One month's grace is allowed for both herd types but if you fail to test before this your herd status will automatically become 'not-negative'.

The check test is only available to already negative herds as it only looks for BVD antibodies in the calves blood, which if present indicates the last crop of calves were exposed to BVD virus. If you fail a check test there is risk of a PI either being present or being carried by a pregnant cow, from this point you must test for virus (looking for PI's) as either a whole calf screen or whole herd screen.

TISSUE SAMPLING: This is an approved test once all calves registered in a 12-month period have a BVD tissue test result. Tissue samples are collected by ear-tagging. Common mistakes made using this method are:

- Not ear-tagging a registered calf that dies or an unsuitable/inconclusive tissue test result is not followed up by testing the calf again. In this situation your 12-month period restarts when the next registered calf born has a test result unless the missed calf is tested. It is advisable to cut the ear off any dead calf still awaiting its eartag test result and freezing (with eartag number) so that if needed another sample can be taken/the ear can be sent to the lab.
- When you submit the samples which complete the 12-month period tick the box confirming that your calf screen is completed for this year so the lab will automatically change your status. Otherwise your status will not be changed even if you have a clear test on every calf born in the 12-month period because the lab is not aware you have completed the calf screen. See extract below of the relevant part of the submission form.

Declaration by Keeper

These samples are intended to constitute a mandatory annual screening test for BVD for my herd.

Signature: Date:

For a calf screen, all calves born on the farm in a 12 month period must be screened for BVD virus. Your 12 month period will be set by the date you carried out your last test e.g. if your last screen was for Feb 2012 – Feb 2013 then all the calves born between Feb 2013 – Feb 2014 must be tested.
(Please copy this form for further calves as necessary or download: www.scotland.gov.uk/bvd)

Please discuss the options for this with the testing laboratory where necessary.

Which screening method have you selected? (Please circle option 1 or 2)

1. TEST ALL CALVES; using the ear tissue test.
(now please tick either FULL or PART)

This lab submission fulfils the above method in: **FULL** **PART**

- For those of you that hand eartags into the practice for submission please let us know if the samples complete your 12 months so we can tick the box for you.

JOINT ILL IN LAMBS



This is an increasingly common problem causing lameness and joint swelling in young lambs generally up to 3-weeks old. Response to treatment tends to be poor and in some flocks a large number of lambs can be affected resulting in high losses.

Joint-ill is usually prevented by ensuring meticulous hygiene in the lambing area, adequate colostrum intake and treating the lambs navels at birth with antiseptic, usually by dipping in strong iodine. However, these measures are not always effective in flocks with this emerging problem of a high incidence of joint-ill.

SAC are investigating outbreaks of this condition to learn more about the causes which might help with formulating a preventative strategy. SAC are offering to do **up to three post-mortem examinations on lambs with joint-ill** from an affected farm without charge, at least one lamb must not have been treated with antibiotic. Please contact the practice if your flock is suffering from a high incidence of joint-ill in young lambs.

LIVER FLUKE RESISTANCE; IS YOUR HERD SUFFERING?

Recently we have found a number of herds/flocks testing positive for **TRICLABENDAZOLE RESISTANCE**

These cases were brought to our attention after clients had dosed their housed stock with a triclabendazole product and then found animals were losing condition as the housing period progressed.

If you used a triclabendazole fluke product at housing and feel your stock have lost condition despite adequate nutrition this winter it may be worth doing a faecal egg test of 5 individual animals to see if fluke are still present.

At early stages of resistance this lack of efficacy may not be very noticeable so we also advise anyone that routinely uses a triclabendazole product to perform a faecal egg test **three weeks** after they next drench.

MICHAEL IS CYCLING TO SEND A COW TO AFRICA 😊

Send a cow is a charity which helps bring hope back to some of the poorest areas in Africa, working with the local communities they assess what help will be of most benefit and work with families to teach and provide a tangible future despite the toughest of times.

The BCVA (British Cattle Veterinary Association) are cycling in relays from Lands End to John O'Groats and Michael will be joining the baton team from Carlisle to Lanark!



Any wishes of good-luck or sponsorship will be gratefully received 😊

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BCVASendACowTheAndrewMadelHerd>

MBM Veterinary Group

MAUCLINE
(01290) 550452

• KILMARNOCK
(01563) 522701

• BEITH
(01505) 502126



WWW.MBMVETGROUP.CO.UK