

BVD Testing

ABOUT: Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) suppresses a cow's immune system, making the animal susceptible to a host of other infections. That's why BVDV is one of the world's most costly bovine diseases, with losses of \$15-\$88 per head from reduced herd productivity, health, and reproductive efficiency.

SYMPTOMS: Signs of acute infection include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, ocular discharge, nasal discharge oral lesions, diarrhea and decreasing milk production.

PREVENTION: Stopping BVDV requires detecting and removing the infection source: persistently infected (PI) cattle that continually expose other animals to disease. Since PI cattle often look healthy, a sensitive, specific diagnostic test is essential.

GETTING TESTED: At least 2 ml of whole blood should be collected in a "red top" vacuum tube. Samples should be refrigerated after collection and be shipped with an ice pack. Samples should be tested no later than 2 weeks from the collection date.

For ear notch testing, collect a clean tissue notch (approximately 2-3 mm in diameter) from the ear using a sanitized ear notcher. Avoid contamination with dirt, feces, or ink. Place the notch in a sealed, labeled tube and refrigerate immediately. Ship on ice within a day of collection. If longer storage is needed, samples can be frozen until shipment.

BVD tests are processed and results reported on Tuesday.



