

Dairy Calf BVDv-PI Screening Protocol

The screening protocol is designed to keep Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) persistently infected (PI) calves from causing production losses when raising dairy calves. Because BVD virus is immune suppressive, other diseases like scours and respiratory infections can be exaggerated with an underlying BVD infection. Identifying and eliminating PIs early can realize benefits of reduced disease and treatment costs for the operation. Calf rearing facilities will benefit from a total BVD control plan involving testing, proper vaccination, biosecurity and handling and welfare management.

1. All calves should have an ear notch or blood (serum) sample taken on arrival.
2. All calves need to be identified individually and matched to the sample taken.
3. Samples should be sent frequently to the lab for analysis. PI calves shed virus in large amounts continuously and spread the virus to other calves.
4. Positive PI calves should be removed immediately.
5. PI positive calves should be isolated in a separate part of the yard. Care should be taken to avoid spreading the virus from these calves to other calves in the yard.
6. A confirmatory sample should be taken from the PI positive calf 3 weeks after original test. If positive, calves should be humanely destroyed.
7. Negative second test calves were acutely infected and can be returned to the home hutch row. An acute calf is one that was infected with a high level of BVD virus, but was able to clear the infection.
8. Since the PI calf was created during gestation, it is important to inform the dairy about the PI calf. A system should be developed to identify which dairies are sending PI positive calves. Information should be sent to PI positive dairies about ways they could benefit from an improved BVDv-PI monitoring and control program.
9. Armor Animal Health is committed to working with the dairy to assist them in a program designed to stop PIs from limiting production.

Armor Animal Health's Lab is located 6040 N Cutter Cir # 317, Portland, OR 97217

For more information call Toll-Free: 877.278.1344