

Seedstock Herd BVD Control Plan

Armor Animal Health has developed the Seedstock Herd BVD Control Plan to make to sure 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. As an operation that sells breeding stock it is critical that PI animals are not transferred to a client. BVD Control involves PI screening along with proper vaccination, making sure new arrives are negative, and overall good handling and welfare management of the herd. Operations should work with their veterinarian to design a complete vaccination program to also manage the risk of other common cattle diseases.

Suggested Testing Program:

LEVEL 1 (Minimum assurance to clients)

All breeding stock (bulls, heifers, cows) sold are tested BVD PI negative a minimum of three weeks prior to sale or delivery.

LEVEL 2

Entire herd screened according to Year 1 schedule (see below).

LEVEL 3 (Highest level)

Once the whole herd has tested BVD PI free for a minimum of one year, reduce PI screening to animals sold as breeding stock only. For even greater assurance, some operations also continue to test all calves born. *Note: All of the above levels should include annual BVD vaccination of cowherd and a minimum of two doses of vaccine prior to breeding heifers.*

YEAR ONE: (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** 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 TWO.** 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 one plan the second year to make sure the changes in management and removal of the PI animals have fixed the problem.

YEAR TWO AND BEYOND: (Surveillance)

1. **Test all animals to be sold as breeding stock** – Continue this as best assurance to your clients.
2. **Calves from first calf heifers (Two-year-olds)** – (Optional) Armor's 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. Ideally, these calves should be tested at birth when normal tagging is being done. Testing at branding/marking/vaccination is also an option.
3. **Maintain testing new arrivals** – Purchased 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.
4. **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.

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For more information call Toll-Free: 877.278.1344