

BOVILIS
a world of protection



**Bovilis[®] protects your bull
from being stuffed by BVD.**

BVD and BULLS

What is BVD?

BVD is widely recognised as the most important viral cattle disease in New Zealand.

About 80% of New Zealand herds and 60% of cattle have had exposure to the BVD virus.

On average 15% of herds have active BVD infection at any one time.

BVD infection in adult dairy cows can cause reproductive wastage, weight loss and reduced milk yield. BVD is also immunosuppressive, meaning cattle that have an active infection will have an immune system that cannot protect them from other diseases.

BVD infection has a major impact during mating and pregnancy. It causes infertility, embryo loss, abortions (slips), stunted and deformed calves, and the birth of dead calves. The most damage is done when BVD infects pregnant cows. If a cow contracts BVD while it is pregnant, it may give birth to a Persistently Infected (PI) calf. PI animals are the main source of infection within the herd.

BVD in bulls

Service bulls are introduced into cow or heifer mobs at the start of mating or after an initial AI period. This coincides with the highest BVD risk period – early pregnancy. Up to 1% of the adult bull population are persistently infected BVD carriers, although some groups of bulls have a much higher prevalence. PI breeding bulls will disseminate BVD virus by direct contact, via secretions and excretions (including saliva, mucus, urine and faeces) and also by venereal transmission. If a PI bull joins a naïve mob of cows or heifers, adverse BVD impacts may occur in ‘outbreak’ proportions with large fertility losses, abortions and PI calf drops.



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BVDV infection in bulls

Breeding bulls Persistently Infected (PI) and Transiently Infected (TI) with BVD virus are a serious threat to the reproductive performance of both breeding dairy and beef herds.

Persistently Infected (PI) bulls.

PI bulls will constantly shed virus in all their secretions including semen throughout their lives. Introduction of a PI bull at mating can cause a devastating effect on herd fertility. Exposure to a PI bull can result in a large number of PI calves especially in a naïve herd.

A PI bull impacts reproductive performance in 3 ways:

1. Non-venereal horizontal spread of virus to a naïve cow or heifer.
2. Venereal spread of virus in the semen to a naïve cow or heifer.
3. Poor semen quality.

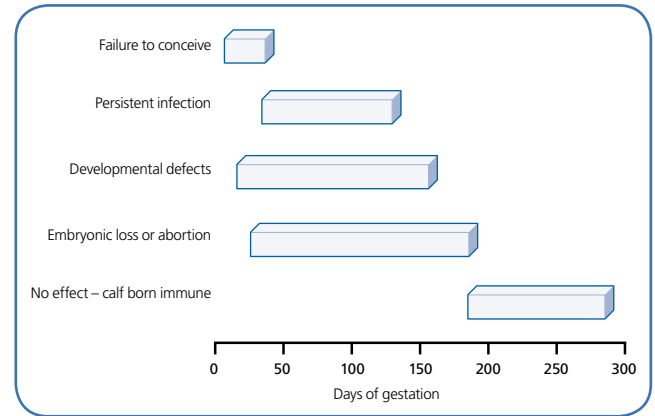
Transiently Infected (TI) bulls.

A TI bull is a bull that is temporarily infected with BVD virus, but unlike PI bulls, they will recover from the infection. These bulls will shed virus for up to 2 weeks, infecting naïve cows or heifers. The elevated body temperature associated with infection can affect semen quality and fertility for up to 10 weeks.

Effects of BVD infection in the breeding cow or heifer

Reproductive wastage occurs when a heifer or cow becomes exposed to BVD virus for the first time when it is pregnant. The outcome depends on when the pregnant cow is infected.

Fig. 1. Effects of BVD infection at different stages of pregnancy.



Breeding bulls with BVD virus are a serious threat to the reproductive performance of both breeding dairy and beef herds.

Blood test and vaccinate bulls

It should be compulsory farm policy that all breeding bulls are blood tested for BVD virus (once only) and vaccinated prior to mating each year as an integral part of a BVD control programme.

Vaccination with Bovilis BVD

- ▶ **BVD Virus Negative** bulls must be vaccinated prior to mating to prevent transient infections. A transient infection can result when a BVD virus negative bull is joined with at least one Persistently Infected (PI) heifer or cow at mating.
- ▶ **Vaccination to be carried out prior to mating.**
 - ▶ Previously unvaccinated bulls require **2 vaccinations** of Bovilis BVD vaccine 4 weeks apart. (For practical reasons the first vaccination may be given when bulls are initially blood tested).
 - ▶ Previously vaccinated BVD Virus Negative bulls require a single **annual booster** of Bovilis BVD vaccine prior to mating every year.

Certification

Bulls should be certified BVD Virus Negative as best practice according to the status defined above and vaccination status should also be recorded. Your veterinarian is able to supply BVD certification.

**Bovilis BVD is the serious solution
for a serious disease.**



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