

## Introduction to BVD herd status and Why a Not Negative herd requires investigation

Scotland's BVD eradication scheme is based on the BVD status of breeding herds, which can be BVD Negative, BVD Not Negative or BVD Positive.

**BVD Negative** – the herd has carried out sufficient BVD testing for the year. This is normally set by the lab, but may require to be certified by the herd's own vet.

**BVD Positive** – the herd has a Persistently Infected animal (PI) alive on the holding, PIs may be Assumed, suspect or confirmed. Note: When the last PI is removed from the herd, the holding will revert to BVD Not Negative. If an Assumed or suspect PI retests Negative (by the Vet), the herd will revert back to the status set prior to the PI testing positive.

**BVD Not Negative** herds occur for a number of reasons. Some herds are affected by more than one reason. The most common reasons are:

- Never participated in the BVD eradication scheme
- Not enough testing done to be given a herd status by the laboratory
- Previous herd status has expired:
  - Delay in arranging annual or 6 monthly BVD testing
  - Delays in blood samples being sent to the lab
  - Delays in laboratory testing or upload of results to ScotEID
- Check tests were BVD Not Negative, but the cause was not investigated
- Laboratory did not set the herd status at the end of last year's calf testing
- "Risky" (BVD Not Negative) animals have been on the holding for more than 40 days, and have yet to show an Individual Negative\* status on ScotEID
- PIs found and removed in the last 13 months (PI hunt may be underway)
- Newly breeding - just registered a calf, not yet tested

If a herd is continuously BVD Not Negative (including any period when it has been BVD Positive) for more than 15 months, the herd will enter a compulsory BVD investigation (CBI). For more information see separate document ["What is a Compulsory BVD Investigation \(CBI\)?"](#)

It is not illegal for a herd to be BVD Not Negative (or BVD Positive) but it is inconvenient and potentially expensive for the keeper. It is not illegal for the Not Negative status to continue for 15 months, resulting in a CBI. However, it is illegal for the CBI to continue for more than 13 months, if the keeper has not done sufficient BVD testing.

**In summary:** BVD Not Negative herds should be investigated and the cause of the problem dealt with.

### Need more help?

If you have questions about the CBI, please contact the ScotEID Helpline 01466 794323.

---

\* For the purpose of this document, 'Individual Negative' refers to both a Negative and Assumed Negative antigen result