

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhea**

**CAUSE:** The bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) virus causes a number of disease syndromes in cattle. It was first recognized in North America in the 1940s.

**EFFECT:** Depending on the stage of gestation when infected, BVD may result in early embryonic death, abortion, premature births, or the birth of weak young. Some clinically normal calves will be carriers of the disease, so-called persistently infected (PI) animals. BVD can also cause respiratory disease. In some situations, a severe and deadly form of disease, called mucosal disease, can result.

**How is BVD spread?** The virus lives in nasal mucus and saliva and is spread by direct contact between cattle, either nose to nose, or nose to mouth. It can also be spread by fomites, e.g. on hands, clothes, and footwear.

**How can BVD be prevented?** Test and isolate additions to your herd. Make sure your herd is properly vaccinated. Keep in mind that vaccination is not 100% protective. Test for and cull persistently infected heifers.

**What if there is an outbreak?** Immediately separate affected and exposed animals from the rest of the herd. Even a well-prepared herd may succumb to BVD when introducing new animals if the right mix of naïve and shedding animals with the right mix of viral types meet.

**For more information on BVD, see:**

[http://www.usjersey.com/Reference/BVDVfacts\\_UCDavis.pdf](http://www.usjersey.com/Reference/BVDVfacts_UCDavis.pdf)

<http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/livestock/dairy/facts/bovinevi.htm>

<http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu/module/bvd/bvd.asp>