

THE MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTARY BVD CONTROL PROGRAM

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

about Bovine Viral Diarrhea in Cattle

THE MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTARY BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA CONTROL PROGRAM

A cooperative effort between the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH), the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and the MSU Extension Service has developed the Mississippi Voluntary Bovine Viral Diarrhea Control Program. This program consists of both a "Certificate" Level and a "Participation" Level for producers wishing to test their herds for infected animals. The Certificate Level has been developed for producers wishing to maintain a PI-negative BVD herd. The Participation Level has been developed for producers wishing to market PI-BVD negative calves.



This program follows the guidelines of the Uniform Program Standards for the Mississippi Voluntary Bovine Viral Diarrhea Control Program. For more information on BVD or the Mississippi Voluntary BVD Control Program, contact your herd veterinarian. Additional information is at http://www.mbah.state.ms.us/disease_programs/bvd/ or contact Dr. Carla Huston, BVD Program Coordinator, at 662-325-1183.



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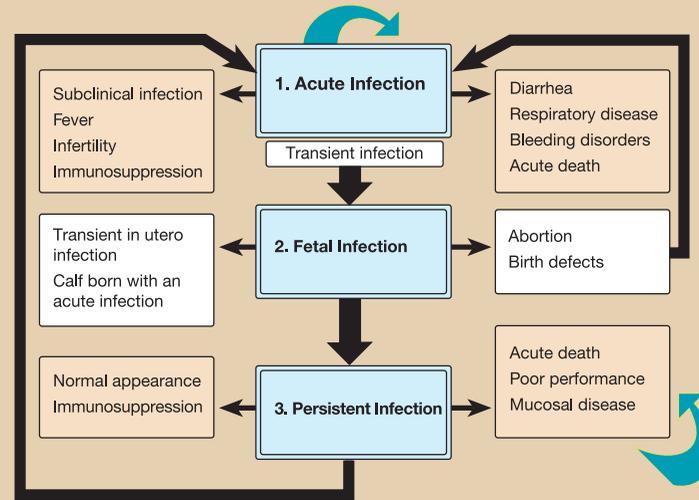
WHAT IS BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS?

Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) can be a serious problem for cattle operations. When BVDV was first identified in 1946 in New York state, the most common clinical symptom associated with the virus was diarrhea, hence the name bovine viral diarrhea (BVD). But since its discovery, BVDV has also been implicated as a cause of infertility, abortions, shipping fever (bovine respiratory disease), immunosuppression (weakening of the immune system that leads to other disease problems), and much more.

WHAT CLINICAL SYNDROMES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH BVDV?

BVDV infections are classified into three clinical syndromes: acute (transient) infection, fetal infection, and persistent infection (PI).

Acute (transient) infections result in fever, depression, diarrhea, respiratory disease, reproductive problems, and much more, depending on the age and immune status of the animal infected, as well as the strain of BVDV involved. Some animals show no outward signs of illness (subclinical disease), but the immunosuppressive effects of the virus leave them susceptible to other diseases. Most animals recover from acute infections, but some animals die.



HOW IS BVDV TRANSMITTED?

BVDV does not usually survive in the environment very long (less than 3 weeks), so direct transmission between animals is the most common route of transmission. Acutely infected animals are a temporary source of BVDV transmission, but PI animals shed millions of viral particles every day. PI animals, therefore, serve as a constant source of BVDV exposure in a herd because they continuously shed virus in saliva, mucous, tears, milk, feces, urine, and any other bodily secretion. Infected herds must, therefore, identify PI animals and remove them from the herd.

HOW DO I TEST MY HERD FOR BVDV?

If you suspect a BVDV infection or if you are concerned about the possibility of a PI animal(s) being in your herd, contact your veterinarian. He or she will know the proper samples to send to the laboratory for BVDV testing.

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Do not buy BVDV infected cattle. Test all replacement animals for BVDV persistent infection before admission to the herd. Also, test the unborn calves carried by the replacement animals for persistent infection soon after birth. Isolate all newly purchased cattle for at least 30 days, preferably on another farm.
- Buy only animals from herds with a known effective vaccination program. Get specific information about the vaccination history, such as what vaccine was used and when it was given. If killed vaccines were used, make sure a primary vaccination followed by a booster vaccination was administered.
- Make certain your own cattle are properly vaccinated according to the manufacturer's recommendations before bringing new cattle into the herd. Consult your herd veterinarian and/or Extension livestock specialist when developing a vaccination program.
- Control farm traffic. Do not let people enter your farm without wearing clean footwear and coveralls.
- Talk to your veterinarian about the Mississippi Voluntary BVD Control Program.

