

August 2016

With the launch of **BVD free in England** many of you have asked what this actually means and what should we be doing.

- Well it is really very simple in that you need an **ADAM and an EVE**.

EVE is very simple **Every Vet's Enthusiasm**. Trefaldwyn Vets are certainly not lacking here as we are all committed to eliminating BVD from your farms.

ADAM is more complicated: **Assess, Define, Action, Monitor**.

Assess: What are **the risk factors** for BVD on your farm. When I mention **biosecurity** I see everyone's eyes glaze over.

- What we mean is basically **stop bringing in disease onto your farm!**
- The commonest way of doing this is through **buying cattle in**. This can be calves, cows or bulls. Lots of you do this and rely on it for your replacements. We just ask that you **keep your animals separate for 21 days** during which time we **test the beast to see if it is carrying BVD**. 9 times out of 10 BVD is introduced on the farm through buying in.

If you are a **truly closed herd** this is good news..... BVD can cross the fence though.

- A lot of you **rotate boundary fields** with your neighbours. This is really **good practice** and will stop nose to nose contact. Failing that **double fences are good** and look good on environmental schemes.
- **Dirty vets**, AI technicians and carcass disposal lorries can also bring it on. If people are looking dirty then scrub them down!!!!

Define: **What is your BVD status?** This is really easy to do and does not cost a fortune.

- We need to take **6 blood samples** from a group of animals that are **between 10 – 20 months old**. If you only run **one management group** then this is enough to determine whether BVD is on the farm. For **dairies** also take a **bulk milk sample**. These bloods can be done at TB testing or during a routine visit.

Action: Depending on the results we can draw up an action plan.

If you are clear: (This will be the majority) then we need to keep it out by **tightening up the boundaries of the farm** and **stopping it from being introduced**. **Vaccination** is also very important.

If you are positive there are 2 options:

- **Hunt out the offending animal**. Often there are **low numbers of carriers** but they are **costing you a fortune**.
 - This can be done by **blood sampling or by milk sampling**. These carriers need to be **culled asap**.
- **Stop the carrier animals that are being born being introduced to the herd**.
 - This can be done via **tag and testing**. This is where the **primary ear tag comes with a sampling pot**. When the animal is tagged the skin which is punched out falls into the sample pot. You then send it off to the lab. If it is positive then the results come back within 7 days and the animal should be culled.

This method takes a longer time for the farm to go clear but is less involved.

Monitor: Once you go clear then **check tests** once a year should occur.

Why should I bother?

1. BVD is costing a fortune, **at least £40 / animal** on the farm ie 270 litres of milk per animal or an extra 11kgD.W..
2. The **animals won't perform** for you and so you will get lots of disease such as pneumonia, mastitis or calf scours.
3. The **animals and you suffer**.
4. We all want to **eradicate** BVD.