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### Bovine Viral Diarrhoea/ Mucosal Disease

Financial losses; Reduced fertility

Poor production

Increased susceptibility to other infections, especially in young calves

The main transmission route is by direct contact with cattle either persistently infected or transiently infected with the BVD virus. Infection with the virus to non-pregnant animals may temporarily lower immunity to other infectious agents.

BVD during early pregnancy may lead to

1. Early embryonic death which will lead to abnormal oestrus cycles.
2. Foetal death and abortion.
3. Birth defects of the nervous system and eyes resulting in weak premature calves.
4. Birth of a normal calf but this animal will be persistently infected with BVD virus and hence shed the virus for as long as that animal is alive. A high percentage of these animals will not reach adulthood as the virus can mutate resulting in Mucosal disease. The latter is a disease which will affect those animals, usually over 12 months of age, resulting in non responsive ulcer formation along the gastro-intestinal tract.

BVD virus can spread in the semen of persistently infected bulls or in bulls experiencing acute BVD with transient virus infection.

Infection in the middle third of pregnancy may result in;

1. Congenital damage
2. Foetal loss.

Infection in the last trimester may result in relatively few problems as the calf's own immune system has developed but foetal loss may still be a problem.

BVD control in herds

There are two major components to disease control in herds;

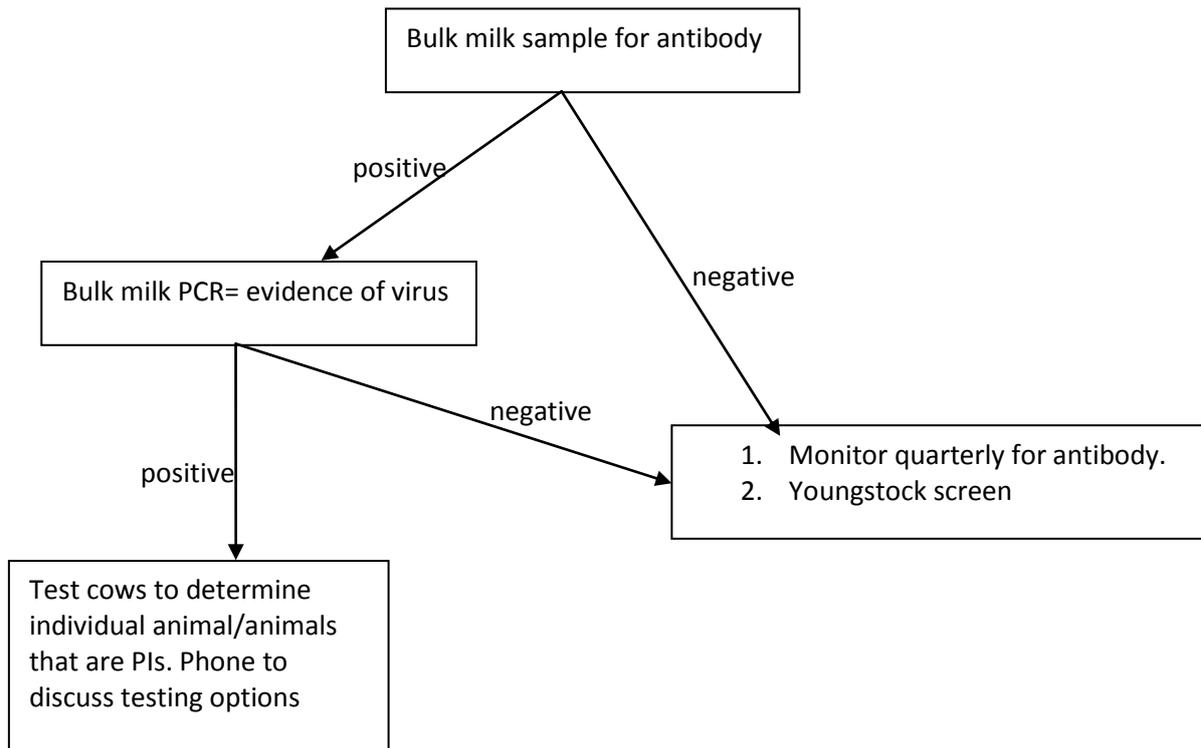
**Biosecurity** i.e. protect the existing animals in that herd from virus being introduced

1. Keep a closed herd
2. If buying cattle in know their disease status
3. Prevent contact with cattle on neighbouring farms i.e. double perimeter fencing

**Biocontainment** i.e. knowing that the virus is on the farm so how to stop/reduce the spread of infection.

1. Vaccinate all breeding stock-remember the protection is of utmost importance in the naive animal during the first third of pregnancy.
2. Screen all animals; bulk tank analysis, blood sampling, tag and test etc.
3. Cull all those persistently infected animals, once identified.

## BVD control in Dairy herds



## BVD Control in Beef Herds

