

# TOP FARMERS KNOW-HOW BIOSECURITY FOR BVD



**BVD is expensive! It is estimated to cost New Zealand \$150 million per year.**

Once you've eliminated BVD from inside your farm by monitoring for it and culling PI cattle, keeping BVD out requires that you prevent new PIs from being created through:

1. **Biosecurity**
2. **Vaccination**

## 1. Biosecurity for BVD: key is to prevent PI contact with your herd

- Direct (when PIs and naïve animals come close enough to touch)
- Indirect (via shared facilities/equipment between PIs and naïve animals because the virus survives in body fluids for several days)

Consider all routes for possible PI contact:

- **In**
  - Virus test purchased/leased animals (including service bulls) before they arrive
  - Keep NAIT and MINDA records up-to-date
  - Secure/double wire boundary fences
  - Ask contractors to clean clothes/boots & equipment
  - Spell yards for 7 days between groups of animals with unknown BVD status and your herd
- **Out**
  - Beware of "Trojan" cows — vaccinate pregnant cattle before they go away to grazing and/or virus test your calves each year
  - Ask grazier to run groups of cattle separately (paddock between groups at all times)
    - > Spell yards for 7 days between groups
    - > Clean / disinfect shared equipment

## ■ Over

- Secure property boundaries — consider double-fencing to ensure several metres between neighbouring animals and your own animals.
- Manage roadside paddocks so animals don't have over-the-fence contact with cattle walking along the road

**Continue to monitor bulk milk and calves each year to gauge how well your biosecurity plan is working**

## 2. Use Bovilis® BVD vaccine to support your biosecurity plan

- Reduces severity of transient infections
  - Prevents PIs forming inside pregnant cows (protects the fetus)
    - For 6 months following initial vaccination series (sensitiser + booster)
    - For 12 months following a third dose
  - **Only vaccine which has been demonstrated to prevent PIs from forming for an entire year**
  - Vaccinate animals which are at risk of PI contact. Example:
    - pregnant animals sent away to grazing (to protect the fetus) —
- Young-stock & adult cattle at risk
- Vaccinate all service bulls (sensitiser & booster) every year, no matter what



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Reference:

1. Heuer C, Healy A, Zerbini C. (2007). Economic effect of exposure to bovine viral diarrhoea virus on dairy herds in New Zealand. *Journal of Dairy Science*. 90:5428-38.
2. Gates, MC. (2021). Managing BVD in New Zealand Cattle Herds: Updated Recommendations. Conference Proceedings of the Sheep and Beef Cattle Veterinarians and the Deer Veterinarians Branches of the NZVA. pp 63-66.



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