

BVD – TESTING TIMES

Bob Mitchell – Drumdreel Farm

Paul Burr – Hi Health Herdcare

Farm Health Planning – Coordinated by the Cattle Health and Welfare Group

Drumdreeel Farm



Farm Stats

- ▣ 160 strong milking herd, calving all year
- ▣ X acres
 - Height?
 - Description? (Quality of grazing etc)
- ▣ Limited contact with neighbouring stock on one boundary
- ▣ Limited purchase of cattle ('almost' closed)
- ▣ Policy to gradually increase numbers through retention

Betty's calves



- ▣ Pride in calf rearing and quality of calves
 - ▣ Suddenly struggling
 - Scouring
 - Pneumonia +/-
 - Problems came and went in waves, biennial pattern?
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- ? Unexplained returns to service
 - No clear pattern, nothing conclusive

Is it BVD?

What should I do next?

1. Bulk milk antibody test
2. Bulk Milk PCR (virus) test
3. Individual milk antibody tests
4. Antibody screen of youngstock

Preliminary results suggest BVD

What should I do next?

1. Vaccinate everything for BVD
2. Look for infected animals and cull
3. A and B
4. Nothing, infection will run its course and infected animals naturally vaccinate others

What is the best approach

- ▣ For BVD quality veterinary advice will pay for itself
 - Determine the best strategy for the particular farm
 - Avoid wasting money on unnecessary testing
 - Properly review risk points for entry of infection



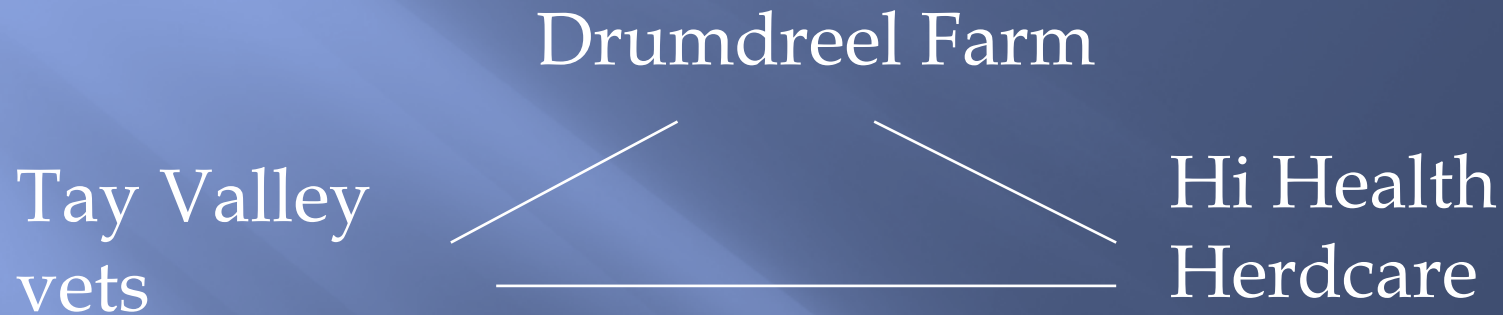
BVD Diagnostics



- ▣ Panel of excellent tests
 - No excuse for not making progress
- ▣ Variety of test materials can be used
 - Cost effective sampling options for farmer
- ▣ Art is in using the best test strategy for each farm to maximise benefit and minimise costs



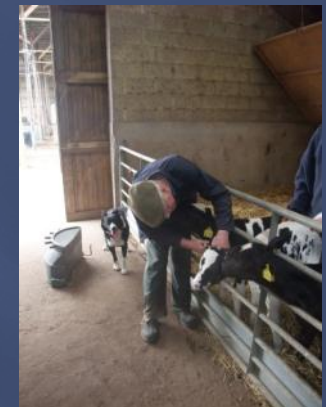
What have we done at Drumdreel?



- ▣ Confirmed BVD active
 - Home bred youngstock check
- ▣ Control plan
 - Vaccinate breeding herd
 - Identify and remove Pis
 - Review security to prevent re-introduction

Testing times?

- ▣ 'Do nothing' no longer an option in Scotland
- ▣ Testing to track down PIs
 - Mix of ear notch and bloods for youngstock
 - Repeat Bulk milk PCRs to confirm no PIs in milking herd
- ▣ Rapid improvement in youngstock health once control programme started
- ▣ Farm assured that no PIs being sold on



Summary

- ▣ Family run Dairy farm saw an increase in problems particularly in calf rearing
- ▣ Farm worked with Tay Valley Vets and Hi Health Herdcare to confirm BVD problem and then control problem by removing PIs and vaccinating breeding animals
- ▣ Used a mix of testing methods including antibody tests on milk and blood and BVD virus testing on blood and ear notch
- ▣ Seen rapid improvement, under control, aiming for accreditation