

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is one of the most common and important diseases affecting New Zealand cattle



Zoetis has developed an in-house validated antigen assay (Erns ELISA assay) that detects BVDV Types 1 and 2 antigens from ear tissue (TSU) samples for persistent infection (PI) status.

BVD-PI status can now be tested by both breeders and commercial farmers adopting Zoetis genomic or DNA parentage solutions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Can I test for BVD-PI status of animals at any age?

A: Only animals older than 35 days should be sampled and tested for BVD-PI status using an ELISA test. The test is not suitable for use in calves less than 35 days of age due to a very low risk of a false negative result in a Persistently Infected (PI) calf, due to test interference by BVD antibodies from colostrum. PCR testing is considered the preferred test option in calves less than 35 days of age and can be arranged through your veterinarian.

Q: Can I test animals to meet their export QA program?

A: If any animals are to be used for live or semen export, they must be tested to confirm BVD status at a New Zealand based and MPI accredited laboratory. The Zoetis BVD test is not accredited for this purpose. Testing can be arranged through your veterinarian.

Q: What sample types will Zoetis be able to test for BVD-PI status when ordered as a part of a genetics order?

A: Zoetis may only test for BVD-PI status when tissue samples, (i.e. via the Allflex WET Tissue Sample TSU) are submitted Zoetis. Orders will only be accepted as an add-on to a genetic test.

Q: Can a sample be submitted just for BVD-PI testing without requesting a genetic test?

A: No, BVD-PI testing can only be requested in combination with SNP parentage profiling and genomic testing for the first submission. If a positive is identified, retesting does not require a second genetic test request.

Q: Do I need to collect two samples – one for BVD-PI testing and a separate one for genetic testing?

A: No, the BVD-PI test and the genotyping can be performed using a single ear tissue sample (Allflex WET Tissue TSU). In some cases, animals may later need a new tissue sample collected due to sample quality issues or confirmation testing. The initial add-on test requests must be requested on all animals within the same order.

Q: What are the possible BVDV-PI Report Outcomes?

A: Zoetis will report animal status as either a Positive or Negative test result. In rare situations, a no result (new sample needed) may occur.

Q: What does Zoetis recommend if I receive a report back stating an animal is PI positive for BVD?

A: A positive result may not definitively indicate the animal is BVD persistently infected (PI); a positive outcome may be observed in a BVD persistent infected (PI) animal, or an acutely infected animal in a very low percentage of cases. Therefore, it is recommended that any positive calves are retested three weeks or more from the original sample collection date. A calf positive on both test dates is considered to be a BVD PI calf.

Q: Where do I go for more information?

A: Head on over to <http://www.controlbvd.org.nz/>, talk to your local vet – or call the Zoetis technical team on 0800 ZOETIS (963 847).

