

# Office Of The State Veterinarian



James Comer, Commissioner

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*National Institute for Animal Agriculture*

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# Bovine Viral Diarrhea

- Worldwide prevalent viral disease of cattle
- 60 – 80 % exposure rate
- Endemic in Kentucky
- Huge economic impact
- Numerous manifestations
- A manageable disease
- Prevalence: 60 – 80% seropositive in adults
  1. Vaccination
  2. Exposure
    - a.) PI is the major reservoir of BVDV
    - b.) Virus shed in all body fluids

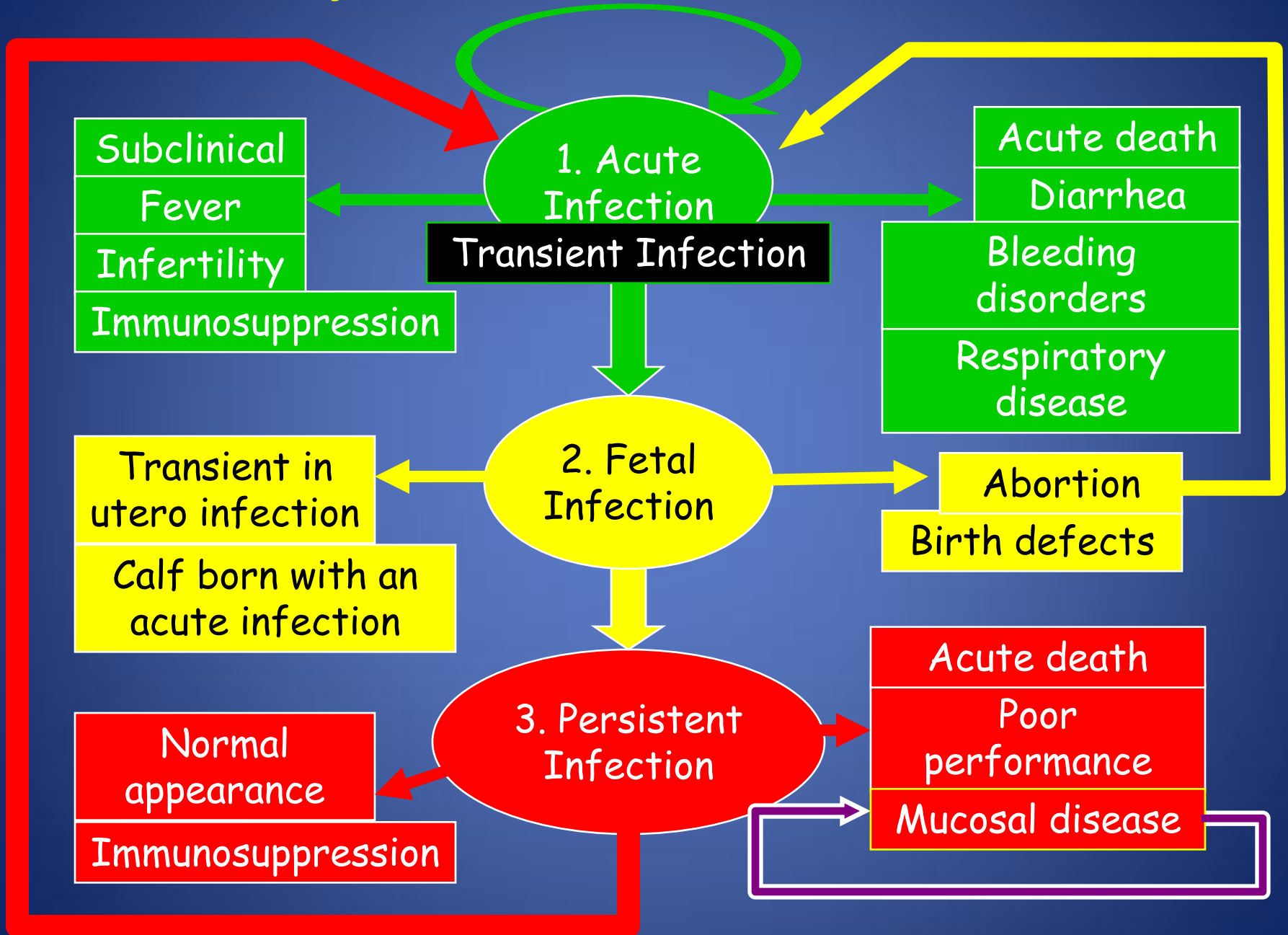
# How Does BVD Impact You?

- Stocker and feedlot operations
  - Respiratory disease (pneumonia, “shipping fever”, Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex/BRD)
  - Reduced feed conversion
  - Reduced weight gain
  - Increased days on feed
  - Etc.

# Impact On You (cont.)

- Cow-Calf Operations
  - All that plus reproductive effects
  - Decreased conception rate
  - Abortion / Stillborn
  - Weak calves
  - Congenital defects
  - PI Calves – “Virus Machines”

# Three Clinical Syndromes Associated With BVDV Infections



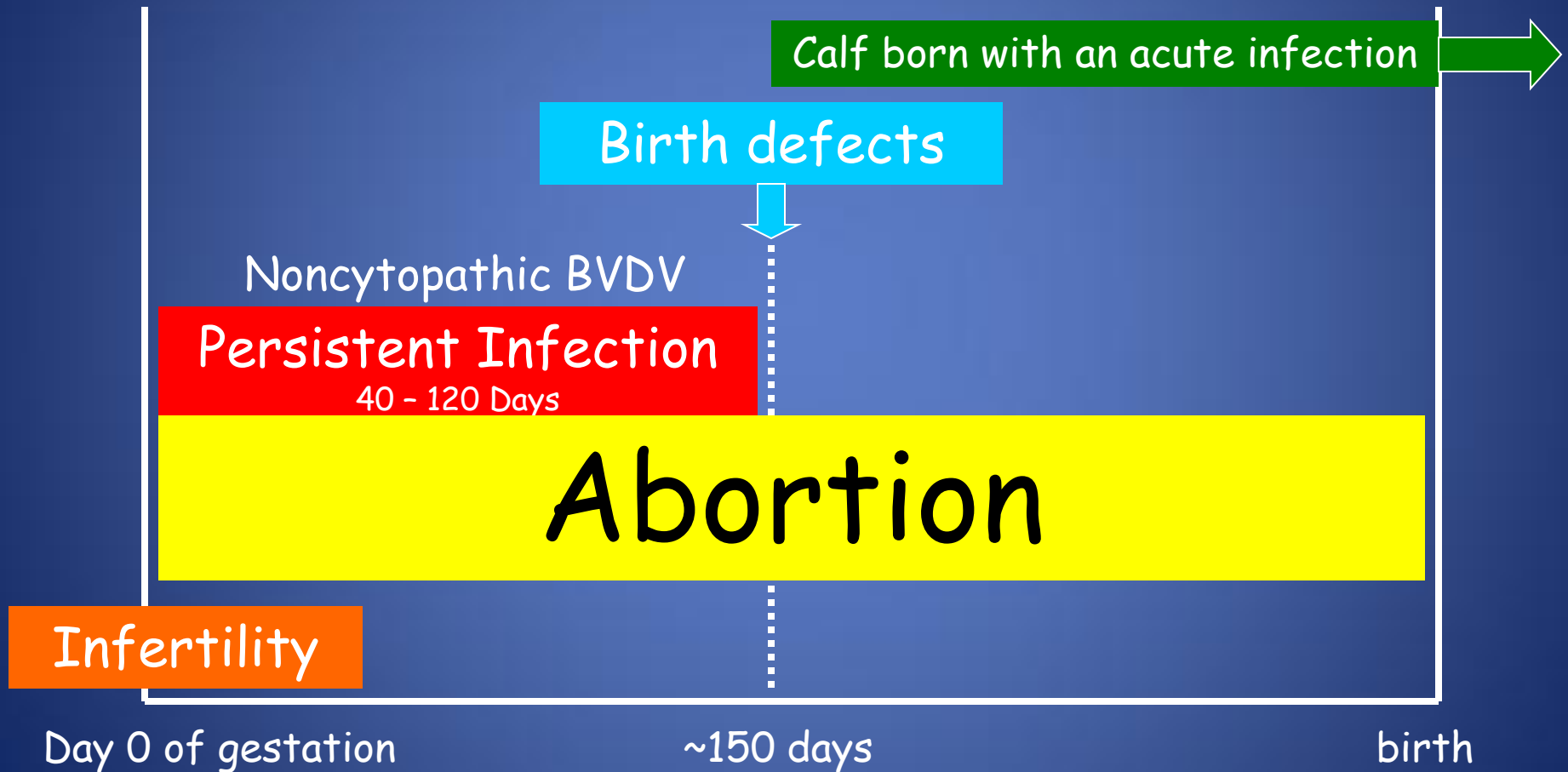
# Acute / Transient Infection

- Subclinical
- Fever
- Infertility
- Immunosuppression
- Acute Death
- Diarrhea
- Bleeding disorders
- Respiratory disease

# Fetal Infection

- Transient in utero infection
- Calf born with an acute infection
- Abortion
- Birth defects
- Persistent Infection

# Reproductive Consequences Of Acute (Transient) BVDV Infections In Cows & Heifers



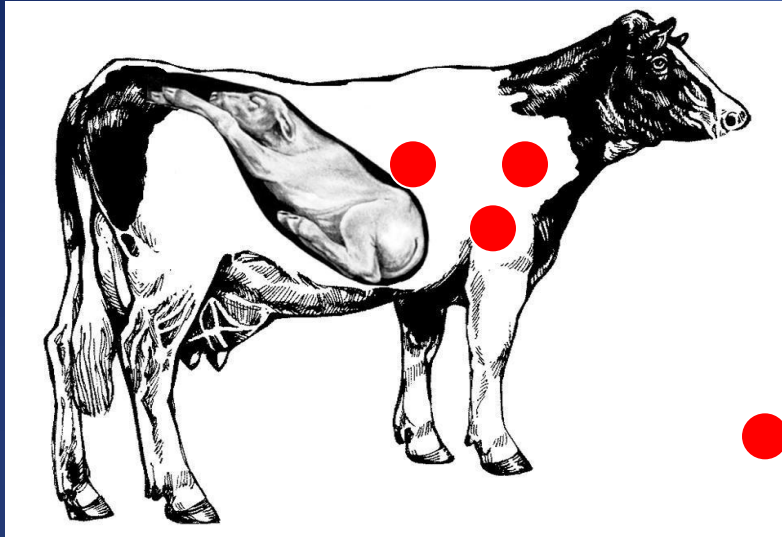


# Persistent Infection - PI

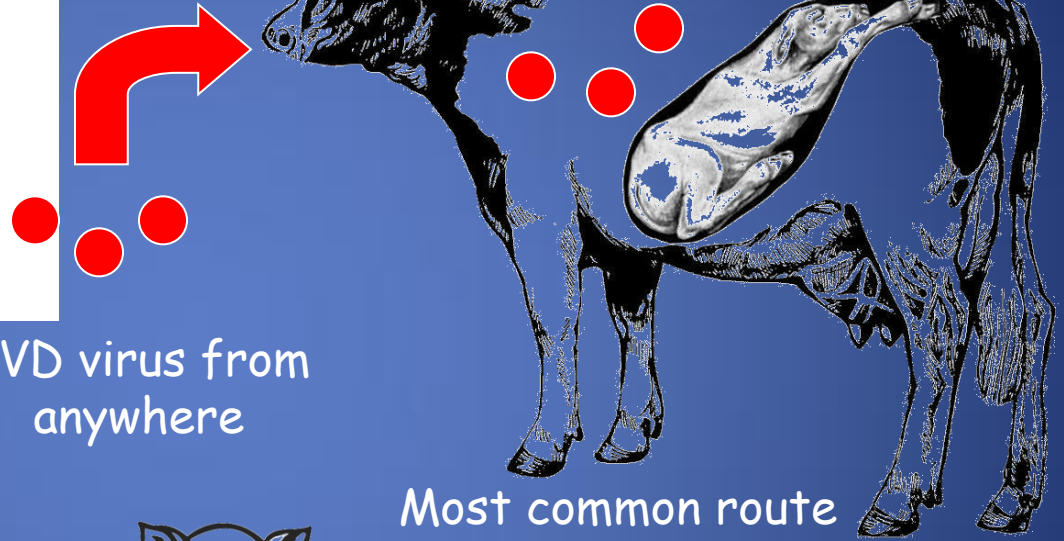
- Normal appearance
- Immunosuppression
- Poor performance
- Mucosal disease
- Acute death

# Two Routes To Produce A BVD-PI Calf

Pregnant BVD-PI female



Pregnant female (non-PI)  
infected with BVD virus  
during first half of gestation

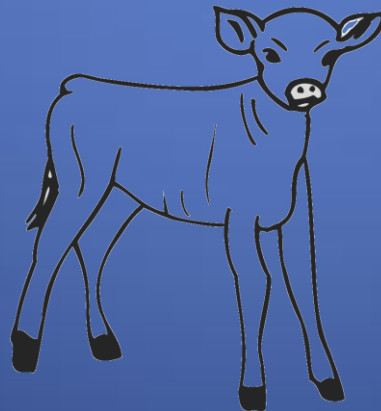
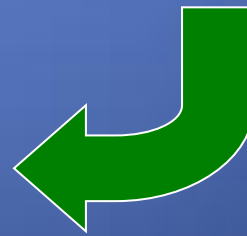


BVD virus from  
anywhere

Least common route  
(less than 10%)



Most common route  
(over 90%)



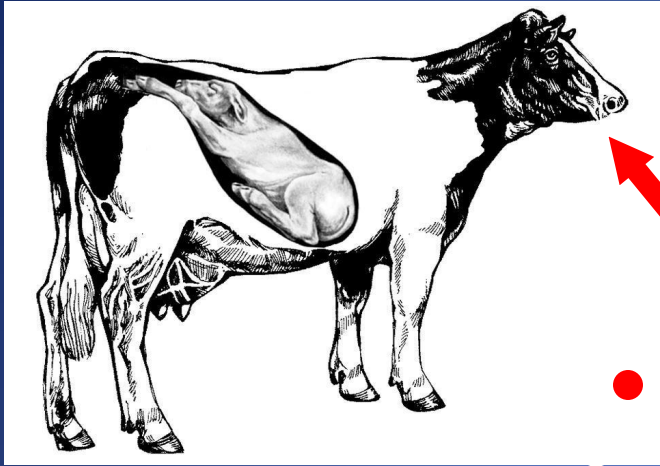
PI calf that will now  
constantly shed BVD virus

# Facts

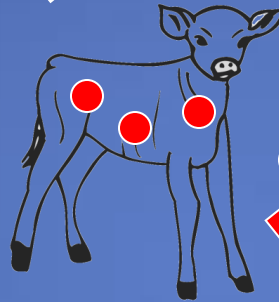
- PI calves are created during pregnancy
- Born a PI – always a PI
- Not born a PI – never a PI
- BVD poses no threat to human health and meat from PI animals is safe to eat

# A BVD-PI Calf Infects Many Animals

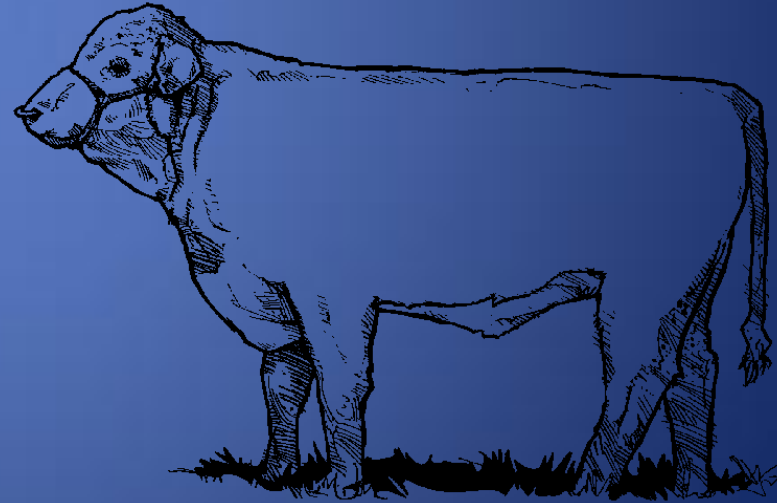
Cow and calf that may both develop acute infections. Cow may suffer from infertility.



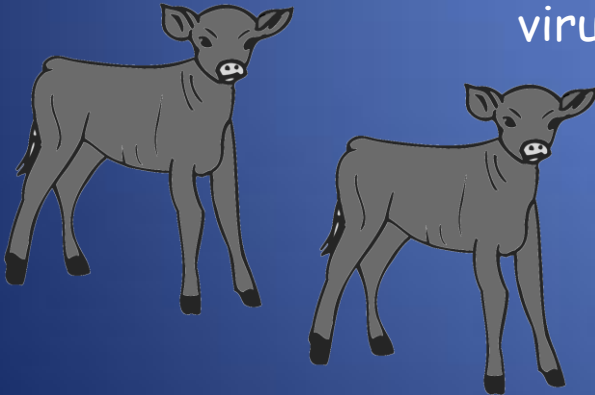
Pregnant female whose fetus may become infected.



PI calf constantly shedding BVD virus to herd mates



Herd bull may become acutely infected and then expose cows while breeding.



Calves exposed to PI calf may develop pneumonia, diarrhea, etc.

# Control Points

- Work with a veterinarian on management program
- Test herd additions
- Isolate – minimum 2 weeks
- Test herd for current status (baseline)
- Control
  1. Detect and remove PI's
  2. Biosecurity – prevent BVD introduction
  3. Herd management plan (include vaccination)

# Animals Recommended For Testing

- All calves
- Any cow or heifer of breeding age that did not have a calf tested for any reason; this includes replacement heifers
- All bulls
- Any herd addition (herd additions would ideally be tested prior to introduction to the herd)

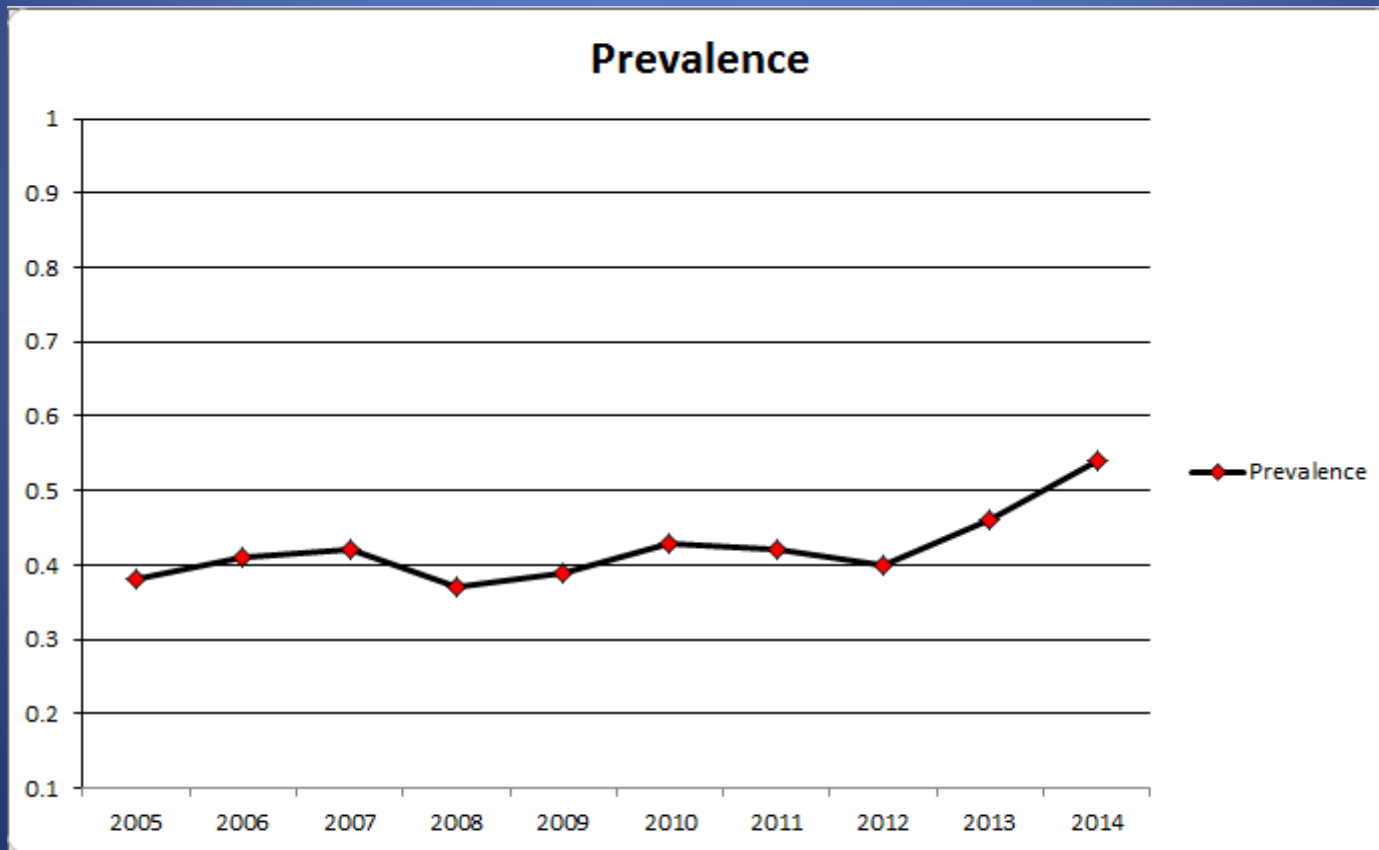
# How Many PI Animals Are In Kentucky?

- Difficult to estimate
- A common number for the general cattle population is 0.4%
- The prevalence of young calves persistently infected with BVDV (1.8% to 10.5%) is higher than detected in the general population because some of these calves die
- 4% to 17.2% of farms are expected to have one or more PI calves

# Prevalence of BVD-PI Positives

## Central States Testing, Elizabethtown, KY

Bill Hessman, DVM





# BVD-PI TESTING KENTUCKY REPORTING LABS 2013-2014

<u>LABORATORY</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Prevalence</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Prevalence</u>
MSU BREATHITT	257/6 pos	0.02	570/8 pos	0.015
UKVDL	11,069/168	0.015	7957/116	0.015
Gold Standard	48,981/265	0.005	63,563/281	0.0044
Central States Testing			68,338/370	0.0054

# What Can You Do With BVD-PI Animals?

- Remove from herd
- Do not send to stockyards or sell
- Options – move only a permit from OSV
  1. Send directly to slaughter – meat is ok
  2. Isolate and feed to slaughter - may be a losing proposition, recognize risk
  3. Euthanize

# Office of State Veterinarian / BVD-PI Guidelines

- BVD-PI has significant impact on the health of Kentucky cattle herds.
- BVD including PI is reportable by labs, vets, owners, and others having knowledge.
- Both privately owned and university laboratories are currently reporting positive results.
- Interpretation of test results has been investigated. It appears that the (AC) ELISA test provides a significant confidence level for identifying PI positive cattle. A second test 2 – 3 weeks later can be used to confirm PI status.

# BVD-PI Guidelines (cont.)

- Actions by OSV upon receiving positive test results:
  1. Contact the owner/attending veterinarian regarding the current status and location of the animal.
  2. Provide an opportunity for the owner to understand the impact of the disease and the laws governing SV response (i.e. KRS 257.040).
  3. Present options to the owner for managing the cattle involved:
    - a) Isolate and retest in 2-3 weeks to confirm the diagnosis.
    - b) Transport to slaughter with OSV permit.
    - c) Isolate either on owner's farm or at permitted feedlot and feed to slaughter only.
    - d) Euthanize and dispose of by an approved method.
    - e) Test positive animal is not to be sold, given away, or transported without approval of the SV.

# BVD-PI Guidelines (cont.)

- Other issues to be considered:
  1. Official I.D. of tested animals recorded on laboratory accession sheet.
  2. Confirmed positive animal is officially ID'd and branded as positive.
  3. All movements of positive animal shall be documented by USDA 1-27.
  4. Target education at the cow/calf level.
  5. Certification incentive program (e.g. CPH).
  6. Establish an indemnity fund.

# Conclusions

“Working  
Together  
Works”

