BVDV

*How can it affect Your operation?*
What is BVDV?
Highly contagious immunosuppressant

The leading cause of Respiratory disease in confined cattle

The single most costly disease in the cattle industry

Affects cattle of all ages and herd sizes, worldwide
BVD has a variety of effects and causes multiple health issues in cattle including:

- Negative impacts on reproduction rates
- Reduced milk production
- A lower immunity to other viruses
- Reduced growth rates
- Respiratory complications
- GI tract issues
BVD TRANSMISSION
BVDV Transmission

- Can occur between cattle or from mother to her fetus.
- The Virus can be transmitted by contact with bodily fluids.
Can occur when an animal enters an area that an infected animal recently occupied

May be in common areas
“BVD is the No. 1 cause of Respiratory Disease in Cattle. It costs the beef industry over $2 Billon per year.”

How does BVDV Affect you & your herd?

- The virus spreads rapidly if not contained or detected
- Increases instances of disease in your herd
- Reduces growth rates and causes weaker newborns
- Causes abortions during early to mid-gestation
- Increases mortality rate in your herd
- Antibiotics may only have a limited positive effect
There are two variations of the BVD virus

- Transiently infected (TI)
- Persistently infected (PI)

PI Cattle are the root of concern
Cattle that contract the virus post-parturition are known as TI

TI cattle will exhibit common symptoms including:
- Weakened immune systems
- Respiratory infections
- and possibly Diarrhea

Generally recover in 12-14 days

Recovered TI cattle build antibodies against future BVD infections
Persistently Infected (PI) Cattle

- Contracted the virus in utero.
- They may appear normal, but rarely reach maturity.
- Are lifelong carriers of the virus.
- Tremendous shed rate.
- Born PI and will die PI and if reach reproductive status will always give birth to a PI.
The problem with PI animals

- Not easily identified
- 1/3 of (PI) animals may die before they reach 500 Lbs
- They are a huge source of infection for others in the herd.
- Vaccinating or giving antibiotics is ineffective
“Risk of initial treatment for Respiratory Tract disease was 43% greater in cattle exposed to a PI animal, compared to those not exposed to a PI animal.”

Symptoms visible in a Stocker/Feeder Operation

- Health breaks or wrecks
- Higher pull rates for an extended period
- Higher incidence of Chronics
- Mortality rate greater than 3%
- Sudden pen or pasture deaths
Symptoms in Cow/Calf operation

- Higher than expected rate of open cows
- Abortions
- Premature or deformed calves
- Weak calves that succumb shortly after birth
- Increased calf health issues
Cow/Calf operation impact

Cost approximately 5% on Conception Rates
(Ridpath)

And an estimated 10% on weaning weights.
(Noble)
What can be done about BVD?
- Biosecurity
- Vaccinations
- Diagnostics
Identify your security weak points:

- Replacements
- Bulls (new and AI semen)
- Neighboring pasture fence lines
- Show animals
- Stock trailers
BVDV cannot be visually detected
Testing can detect PI animals
Best tool to protect your herd
Which Animals should you test?

- **COW CALF PRODUCERS**
  - All calves
  - All open animals including bulls

- **STOCKERS/BACKGROUNDERS**
  - Test all incoming cattle at initial processing.

Any new animals being introduced to your herd

Test and Quarantine for 21 days
Why Test for BVD-PI?

- To eliminate the infection vector
- Lower your herd health costs
- Decrease death loss
- To prohibit BVD induced reproductive issues
- Confirmed PI negative animals can recognize “added value”
- Peace of mind