

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SHOWS CONDUCTING CATTLE COMPETITIONS

MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISKS OF BVDV TRANSMISSION IN SHOW CATTLE

Bovine pestivirus or BVD virus is usually transmitted by close contact between a persistently Infected (PI) and a susceptible animal. If the susceptible animal is pregnant, there is a high risk of reproductive failure. The persistently Infected animal sheds large amount of virus in virtually all of its secretions and excretions, including urine, faeces, nasal and ocular discharges, semen, uterine and vaginal fluids and milk. While the virus can be spread by aerosol (through the air) in fine droplets, the distance of this spread is limited. BVD virus can survive in the environment for a few hours but is inactivated by exposure to sunlight, high temperatures and desiccation. Factors that protect the virus from sunlight or drying out (eg cool, moist cloudy days or in manure pats) will delay inactivation of the virus. Cool moist, cloudy weather can extend virus survival for several days and up to 2 weeks in cattle dung.

To protect our stud breeders and the integrity of country shows the following guidelines will come into effect on 1st January 2013:

1. Stud cattle section permitting only BVDV free (non-PI) animals to enter a show;
2. Ensure complete segregation of commercial and known tested negative (Non-PI) (stud) animals;
3. Untested animals should be separated at all times from susceptible animals by a distance of at least 10 metres;
4. Susceptible females should be excluded from any area that has been occupied by untested animals for at least 24 hours unless all surfaces are hard and impervious and can be easily washed down. Such surfaces (eg concrete floors and rails) should be thoroughly washed down and allowed to dry;
5. It is preferable for grassed areas to be utilised first by tested animals;
6. In any grassed areas that must be used first by untested animals, once the untested cattle have been removed, all manure should be collected and the area left unoccupied for as long as possible and at least overnight;
7. Ensure that vehicles and equipment used with untested animals are not used for tested negative animals until they have been thoroughly washed

(liberally with water followed by a sanitiser such as an iodophor product) and allowed to dry.

8. Shows conducting hoof and hook competitions, commercial cattle sections or sporting events, where untested cattle are involved, to carry out a risk assessment.
9. Ensure that separate loading facilities are available for stud and non-tested cattle
10. Led steers that are being housed and or judged on the same area as stud animals need to be Non PI.
11. Encourage stud breeders with females that could be pregnant to takes steps to ensure heifers and cows not susceptible to pestivirus. This can develop by natural exposure (blood tests indicates that they have antibodies to the virus) or have been vaccinated according to the manufacture's recommendations.

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