U.S. veterinarians estimate that bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) costs producers more than $30 per head each year in lost productivity, even after vaccination.  

Fortunately, with an effective management strategy and the right diagnostic tools, BVDV can be controlled.  

IDEXX recommends this 3-step strategy for BVDV control:

1. Determine your herd status using the IDEXX BVDV PI X2 Test at a local laboratory.
2. Test all new introductions to the herd using the IDEXX SNAP® BVD Test.
3. Work with your veterinarian to design a vaccination and biosecurity program.

**PI (Persistently Infected)**
An animal infected before birth that remains infected for life and can continually infect other cattle.

**TI (Transiently Infected)**
An exposed animal whose system eventually fights off the virus. Infection lasts several days to a few weeks and makes the animal susceptible to other diseases.

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**Cow/Calf Ranches and Seed Stock/Purebred Breeders**

**Maximum Protection Strategy**

Before breeding season:
- Determine herd status by testing all:
  - Calves (If calf is negative, dam is negative. No need to test dam.)
  - Cows of positive calves (If calf can’t be traced to cow, consider testing all cows.)
  - Open cows and bulls
- Test all new introductions, including replacement heifers, bulls and stockers.
- Test all seed stock/purebred bulls and heifers offered for sale.
- Develop a vaccination and biosecurity program with your veterinarian.
- Keep vulnerable cattle (especially pregnant cows and those of uncertain testing status) away from fence-line contact with untested cattle.
- Test annually using the Surveillance/Maintenance Strategy and/or continue to test each calf crop. (Note: PI-tested calves bring added value.)

**Surveillance/Maintenance Strategy**
- Test all:
  - New introductions
  - Aborted fetuses and calves that die
  - Animals treated for bovine respiratory disease (BRD) and/or other illnesses
- If a PI animal is detected, implement the Maximum Protection Strategy.

**Stocker/Backgrounder/Feedyard**

**Maximum Protection Strategy**
- Determine herd status and test new introductions by:
  - Purchasing BVDV-PI-tested cattle.
  - Testing all calves with unknown PI status on or before arrival.
- Develop a vaccination and biosecurity program with your veterinarian.

**Medium Protection Strategy**
- On or before arrival, test all high-risk calves with unknown PI status.
- Follow the Surveillance/Maintenance Strategy for all other cattle.
- Develop a vaccination and biosecurity program with your veterinarian.

**Surveillance/Maintenance Strategy**
- Test all:
  - Animals treated for BRD or other illnesses and cattle that die. This may identify pens/pastures with additional PI animals that need to be tested.
  - Cattle in problem pens/pastures with an unusually high sickness rate. If no PI animal is found, consider testing cattle in adjacent pens/pastures. Fence-line contact with a PI animal may be the source of infection.
- If a PI animal is detected, test all cattle in that pen or pasture and consider implementing the Maximum or Medium Protection Strategy.

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1. Data on file at IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, Maine USA.
**BVDV Testing Strategy Guide—Beef**

**Look to IDEXX for Complete BVDV Diagnostic Solutions**

IDEXX diagnostic tests are used around the world to protect beef herds from BVDV.

Ask your IDEXX representative about the latest advances in BVDV diagnostics:

- The 20-minute IDEXX SNAP® BVD Test detects PI status from a large ear-notch sample, allowing you to quickly check new introductions during any farm visit.
- The new laboratory-based IDEXX BVDV PI X2 Test protects herds with unmatched sensitivity and specificity, even for challenging BVDV strains, to accurately assess the herd’s PI status.

**BVDV Myths**

**MYTH:** PI calves will be killed by modified live virus (MLV) vaccination.

**FACT:** Controlled experiments have not been able to induce sickness or death in PI calves following MLV vaccination. However, case reports indicate that MLV vaccination can cause a PI animal to become sick or to die, though far less than 100% are negatively affected.

**MYTH:** BVDV won’t affect vaccinated cattle.

**FACT:** The tremendous amount of virus secreted by a PI calf can overwhelm a level of immunity that is protective under less severe exposure. Vaccination alone will not solve BVDV problems.

**MYTH:** Calves are PI because their dam is PI.

**FACT:** Recent research has shown that 7% of PI calves’ dams were PI; the other 93% of calves have dams with a normal immune response to BVDV and are not persistently infected.

**MYTH:** The greatest cost associated with a PI calf is the death of that calf.

**FACT:** The reproductive loss associated with lower pregnancy proportions, more abortions and higher calf mortality is the greatest economic cost of PI animals.

**MYTH:** A PI calf will be thin, have a rough hair coat and be a poor doer.

**FACT:** While many PI animals are unthrifty, reports have indicated up to 50% will appear normal and may enter the stocker operation in excellent condition. PI calves cannot be visually identified.