

How is the disease spread?

Persistently infected animals shed large amounts of the virus throughout their life and therefore act as a source of infection for other cattle. The virus is present in all secretions including saliva, nasal discharge, milk, urine, faeces and semen. Close contact between cattle increases the risk of transmission, but flies, rectal gloves and even nose grips can also spread it.

How is BVD diagnosed?

There are two types of tests for BVD – one to detect antibodies that an animal develops to the virus, the other to detect the presence of the virus itself. Your veterinarian will determine the correct diagnostic approach.

Can BVD be controlled or prevented?

To effectively control BVDV infection in a herd, persistently infected carriers should be eliminated wherever possible, foetal infection must be prevented and the re-introduction of the virus must be terminated. Any successful BVD control program, therefore, should include the elimination of carriers, the implementation of biosecurity measures and the use of vaccine. Veterinary advice should be sought prior to the implementation of a vaccination program.

The goal of a BVD vaccination program is to increase immunity to BVD and to reduce the incidence of foetal loss and infection. Pestigard[®] vaccine is an efficacious vaccine reducing reproductive losses caused by Australian strains of BVDV. Veterinary advice should be sought prior to the implementation of a vaccination program.

What are the recommended vaccination programs?

Herd vaccination

The primary course of vaccination consists of 2 doses of vaccine, with an interval of 4 weeks – 6 months between doses. Consideration should be given to vaccinating all cattle in the herd when commencing a vaccination program. Note that immunity does not occur until 14 days after the second dose.

Vaccination of breeding cattle

To reduce reproductive losses associated with foetal infection and the birth of calves infected with BVDV, cattle should complete the primary course of vaccination preferably 2–4 weeks prior to joining/insemination.

Vaccination of introduced stock

Introduced stock should be given the primary course of vaccination on arrival.

Booster doses

After the primary vaccination course has been given, a booster dose of vaccine should be administered to breeding cattle preferably 2–4 weeks prior to each joining/insemination, to maintain an adequate level of immunity during pregnancy.

What is the correct does rate?

Pestigard[®] Cattle 2mL