Pesti Virus or Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV) Tests

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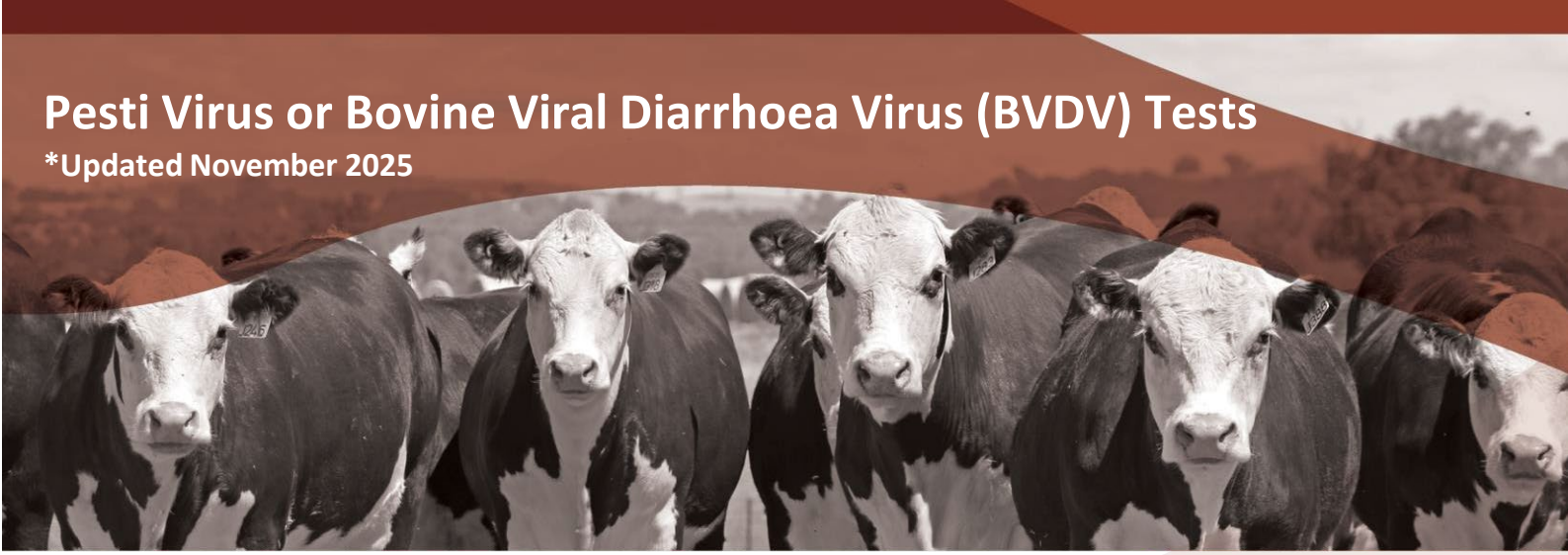

Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) is one of the most important viral pathogens of cattle worldwide. Because of the insidious and complex nature of BVDV, laboratory diagnosis is critical in preventing and controlling BVDV infections.

If an animal becomes infected with the virus, symptoms may appear as severe sickness, with bloody diarrhoea, loss of appetite, high fever, mouth ulcers, and pneumonia. Some infected animals may die, while others will recover, usually within one or two weeks.

Persistent infection (PI carrier) only develops in utero, and then only if the dam is exposed to BVDV, at less than 125 days of pregnancy. An animal cannot become persistently infected after it is born.

The Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) tests performed at Neogen are designed to test for persistently infected (PI) animals. However, if a non-immune animal is exposed to a PI animal, that animal will become sick with the BVDV virus, which will be detected by testing. However, their immune system will usually neutralise the virus within 2-3 weeks, and the animal will return to relative health within a couple of weeks. This sort of infection is referred to as acute, or transient, infection.

If a Positive result is received, HAL members are encouraged to provide another sample for retesting (at least 3 weeks after the first sample) to confirm PI status.

If choosing to resample and retest to confirm a persistent BVDV infection, Neogen recommend sending a different sample to the initial submission.

When a BVDV test has been done through Herefords Australia, that animals result will show on our website as either BVDVNeg or BVDVPos indicating if the result was Negative or Positive.

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