

Finding the Source of BVD

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) offers clients a range of tests to detect bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV). BVDV threatens the global cattle industry and negatively impacts producers in the form of decreased or lost productivity.

Despite vaccines and an array of diagnostic tests, this expensive disease continues to impact cattle producers. About 70 to 90 percent of all BVDV infections go undetected, leaving the industry open to more losses from BVDV.

The respiratory, immune, intestinal, blood and reproductive systems can all be affected by BVDV.

Diagnosing the disease can require more than one test to determine the cause of a poor doing cow's symptoms. Producers are offered an array of tests at TVMDL, and they are completed in a timely manner.

A BVDV-infected animal can manifest a variety of clinical signs. These include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, ocular and/or nasal discharge, oral lesions, diarrhea, decreased milk production, abortion and weak calves that fail to thrive.

Often, there are no outward signs that the animal is infected with BVDV and many diseases present as co-infections with BVDV as the root cause:

- bovine herpesvirus-1 (IBR)
- parainfluenza-3
- bovine coronavirus
- pastuerella
- mycoplasma
- histophilus

TVMDL offers a panel to detect four cattle diseases, including BVDV. The B4 panel is a cost-effective quantitative PCR testing option for exporters and producers, and tests for:

- Bovine herpesvirus-1 (IBR)
- Bovine leukemia virus
- Bluetongue virus
- Bovine viral diarrhea virus



Proper test selection is critical for diagnosis. TVMDL offers a variety of tests to diagnose BVDV:

- Pooled ear notch PCR
- Virus isolation
- Antigen capture ELISA
- qPCR
- Virus neutralization
- Virus isolation (cell culture)

Working with your veterinarian, you can determine the appropriate test for your animal based on its symptoms. Once it is determined that cattle are infected with BVDV, it is best to consult a veterinarian for recommended disease management options.

For questions regarding diagnostic testing for BVDV, contact TVMDL Amarillo at 1.888.646.5624 or the TVMDL College Station at 1.888.646.5623.