

# Introduction

## Let's take action to control BVD on our dairy and beef farms

BVD is possibly the most important viral disease of cattle in New Zealand. Recent advances in testing have shown that it is a serious and widespread issue.

We now know that at least 60% of dairy and beef cows have been exposed to BVD, which is causing significant production losses. Estimates put the annual losses for our dairy farmers at around \$127 million, while for our beef farmers, the cost is around \$3000-\$9000 per 100 cows in infected herds.

Since 2005, the BVD Steering Committee has been an industry leader influencing BVD research, diagnostic testing developments and farmer awareness of BVD. It is now time to act. Our aim is to deliver best practice BVD management tools and resources for rural veterinarians and their farming clients.

Our first major resource is this BVD Management Toolkit, which provides comprehensive information to enable veterinarians to develop appropriate programmes to define, manage and monitor BVD on their clients' farms.

BVD is not only a threat to individual farmers, but also to New Zealand's economy, which still depends on our primary sector for growth.

BVD can be controlled, and our aim is to ensure New Zealand's rural veterinarians and their farming clients have all the information and resources they need to test for and control BVD.

Let's take action to control BVD on our dairy and beef farms.



## BVD STEERING COMMITTEE

Working to free New Zealand cattle farms from BVD

BVD Committee Members:

Dr. Roger Ellison (Chairman), Dr. John Pickering (Founding Chairman), Dr. Stuart Bruère (Toolkit and Roadshow Co-ordinator), Dr. Andrew Weir, Dr. Fraser Hill, Dr. Peter Blaikie, Dr. Hinrich Voges, Dr. Wayne Clough, Dr. Peter Anderson, Dr. Cord Heuer, Dr. Jenny Weston, Dr. Theresa Hoyle, Dr. Isobel Gibson.

## About the information in this BVD Management Toolkit

The NZVA BVD Steering Committee has researched and provided the technical and management content for this BVD Management Toolkit based on the best international and local evidence and research available at the time of publication in June 2011. The content expresses only the views of the NZVA BVD Steering Committee, and does not contain any contribution from any individual sponsor or partner.



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## Our resource and communications partner

The NZVA BVD Steering Committee wishes to acknowledge MSD Animal Health as our resource and communications partner. In support of the Committee's objectives to provide veterinarians with the best scientific material available to implement BVD farm management plans, MSD Animal Health has entered into a non-financial and unrestricted partnership to provide the following resources: the BVD Management Toolkit publication, veterinary road show management and communications material, and a wider industry awareness campaign.



## Financial sponsors

We would like to thank the industry organisations and individuals who have provided financial sponsorship to fund Committee members' time and the activities involved in completing the content of the BVD Management Toolkit, and also to cover their time and travel costs associated with the veterinary road shows.

