

Test youngstock for BVD

THE importance of testing for bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) was highlighted by Jonathan Statham of Bishopton Veterinary Group.

Mr Statham said the disease had been around for at least 25 years, yet the industry was failing to get a handle on it and England, in particular, was lagging behind in terms of a national control programme.

Active

“About 50 per cent of herds in the UK have got active BVD,” he said. “The disease opens the door for other diseases. If you can get on top of BVD, then other problems will also improve.”

He recommended blood testing a sample of youngstock at nine months to reveal the herd's status.

“Once you find out whether you have it or not, it can be controlled,” said Mr Statham. “For infected herds, this will mean identifying persistently infected calves and culling them, effective vaccination policies and improving biosecurity.

“For free herds, I'd recommend continuing regular surveillance, maintain biosecurity and vaccinating. Doing nothing is not an option.”



BVD CONTROL CAMPAIGN

Page 54