



# BVD Program- Texas

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# BVD Program Development Request

- In 2018, industry requested TAHC develop a program with supporting rules to protect cattle buyers.
  - Large volume buyers were receiving high percentage of BVDV positive animals in some purchased lots
  - Assumption: Cattle were being screened and positive animals dumped on the market



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# Program Research

- TAHC researched program efforts in other states
  - Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma
- Academy of Veterinary Consultants and American Association of Bovine Practitioners Joint Statement on Disclosure of BVD-PI Animal
  - The cattle industry has a moral, ethical and potentially legal obligation not to sell known diseased or damaged animals to other parties without full disclosure.
  - It is widely recognized that a PI animal is defective and once confirmed, the PI status should be thereafter disclosed.
- Position Statements by NCBA
  - Encourages all possible efforts to develop economically efficient methods to control and/or eliminate BVD in beef cattle herds
- Consulted SMEs such as Shollie Falkenberg (USDA-ARS) and Tom Hairgrove (Texas A&M University)



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# Program Research

- TAHC conducted an exploratory call with industry and resource agencies in fall of 2018
- Interest proved sufficient to warrant forward movement



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# Response to BVD Program

- TAHC BVD Working Group held its inaugural meeting on February 14, 2019.
- As a result, a BVD control program was proposed at the May 21, 2019 TAHC Commission Meeting.
- Primary elements of a BVD Control Program:
  - Disease reporting requirements
  - Outline of accepted “Official” BVD tests and testing requirements
  - Movement restrictions for persistently Infected (PI) animals
  - Official identification requirements
  - Recordkeeping requirements
  - Biosecurity standards for approved pens.



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# Comments on BVD rule proposal

- Making BVD reportable/actionable will discourage testing
- Regulatory burden created by making reportable
- If made reportable, should be monetary incentive
- Are already voluntarily sending PI animals to slaughter
- Concern about cross reactions in vaccinated animals
- Should focus on herd of origin – too late if already PI
- Concern over cost of electronic ID
- Retest should not be restricted to vets or TAHC
- Concern that TAHC would restrict herd of origin



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# Response to BVD rule concerns

- The chapter was originally proposed at the May 21, 2019 commission meeting for the purpose of establishing a Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) program.
- However, the rule proposal was withdrawn, and a new rule proposal was approved and submitted for public comment.
- The newly proposed rule:
  - Defines which cattle are classified as BVDV PI
  - Would require the seller to disclose the status in writing to the buyer prior to or at the time of sale.

Comment Period Opens: September 27  
Closes: October 28



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# New BVD Rule Proposal

## CHAPTER 44 BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA

### §44.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the defined meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) – Bovine viral diarrhea is a viral disease of cattle that is caused by the bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV).
- (2) BVDV Persistently Infected (BVDV-PI) Cattle--Any cattle with positive results on a BVDV antigen detection test (e.g., ELISA [enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay], PCR [polymerase chain reaction], or BVDV immunohistochemistry (IHC) that either are not retested, or that have a positive result on a BVDV retest.



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# New BVD Rule Proposal

## CHAPTER 44 BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA

### §44.1. Definitions. (continued)

- (3) BVDV Retest--A subsequent test for BVDV using an antigen detection test (e.g., ELISA [enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay], PCR [polymerase chain reaction], or BVDV immunohistochemistry (IHC).
- (4) Cattle--All dairy and beef animals (genus *Bos*).
- (5) Commission--The Texas Animal Health Commission.



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## §44.2. General Requirements.

(a) The seller of BVDV Persistently Infected Cattle must disclose this status in writing to the buyer prior to or at the time of sale.

(b) Cattle that initially test positive to a BVDV antigen detection test may be administered a BVDV retest. If the retest results are negative, the cattle are considered to have been transiently infected (not persistently infected) and are not covered under this rule.



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## §44.2. General Requirements (continued).

(c) The Commission shall establish a BVDV Program Review Working Group consisting of members from the cattle industry, veterinary profession, veterinary diagnostic laboratory, veterinary college, extension service and agency representatives. The working group shall annually review the BVDV control program and make recommendations to the Commission on amendments to program components or operation, and on whether or not the program should be continued.



# Questions?

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