

**CONTROLLING
PERSISTENTLY INFECTED BVD (PI BVD)
The Value of Biosecurity
and
Merchandizing Aspects**

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THE HIGH COST OF LOW PREVALENCE!

- **Studies show *normal* post-weaning prevalence of PI BVD to range from 0.33 to 0.50% (State of Colorado; Cactus Feeders)**
- ***However*, PI BVDs often exist in chronic pens at the rate of 21% and account for 3-4% of all deads (Cactus Feeders)**



THE HIGH COST TO COW HERDS

- \$10 to \$24 cost per cow in beef herds
- \$35 to \$55 cost per cow in dairy herds

Poor conception rates

Increased abortions

Increased abnormal calves

Increased calf morbidity

Increased calf mortality



FOCUS ON PREVENTION FIRST!

- **Avoid Exposure**
Biosecurity MUST become a priority!!

Sanitation

Clothes, boots and vehicles
Cattle working areas
Shared equipment

Isolation

New Cattle
Sick Pens
Deads



FOCUS ON PREVENTION FIRST!

- **Herd History**

 - Recognize indicators

 - Communicate problems

 - Vaccinate!!

- **Test**

 - High Risk—Whole herd

 - Low Risk—Observe, and randomly test 20-30%



THE POINT OF PREVENTION!

- **If we can keep the BVD virus from reaching the fetus, we will prevent any more PI BVDs from ever being produced!!!**



COLORADO IS A LEADER!

- Developed a multi-level approach that other states are adopting (IA, KS, NE, MT)

Level 1	Biosecurity program is initiated; <i>(herdsmanship, record keeping, complete MLV vaccination program)</i>
Level 2	Identify PIs via strategic testing
Level 3	Whole herd testing is necessary for <i>“PI BVD-free Certification”</i>



**GENETIC PROVIDERS *MUST*
UNDERSTAND THE PI BVD STATUS OF
THEIR CATTLE!**

- **Ethical production practices**
- **Customer confidence**
- **Reduced liability**



INVESTMENT OR EXPENSE??

- Purchasing source-verified herd history
- Purchasing and administering proper vaccinations
- Taking the time and dollars to test
- *“Realizing” any PI positives!*



DON'T FORGET YOUR ETHICS!!

- **DO NOT share your BVD problem with unsuspecting buyers!!!**
- **If we, as producers, are not willing to be pro-active, we will likely be subject to government regulation!!!**
- ***DO THE RIGHT THING!!!***



This is the Bottom-line!!

- Additional cost per head for source verification *\$2 to \$10 per hd*
- Cost of a complete MLV vaccination program *\$2 to \$5 per hd*
- Cost of testing *\$4 to \$6 per hd*

THE VALUE OF YOUR REPUTATION

PRICELESS!!!

