

## **IDEXX BVD CALF TESTING: SAMPLE COLLECTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

To control BVD you need to test calves every year. The BVD Ag ELISA used on ear notch is the superior test for identifying Persistently infected (PI) animals regardless of age.

Provided the sample is clearly identified the IDEXX BVD Antigen ELISA test on Ear Notch is extremely robust when used with the many different types of ear notch methods. For ease of identification, IDEXX recommends ear notch samples be taken using the Allflex Tissue Sampling Unit Applicators (TSU).

The TSU offers fast, efficient, clean, uncontaminated sampling. Using this method enables the collection of tissue directly into a pre-labelled collection device, from which the sample can be tested, reducing the likelihood of cross contamination and misidentification of samples. We recommend purchasing Tissue Sampling Unit Applicators and Tissue Sampling Units (sample collection tubes) directly from Allflex (see [www.allflex.global](http://www.allflex.global) for more details). If you are caught short we also have a small number of Tissue Sampling Units (sample collection tubes) available to order through IDEXX's consumable order form (available at [www.idexx.co.nz/forms](http://www.idexx.co.nz/forms)).

IDEXX has experience with several international BVD eradication and control programs using the IDEXX Antigen ELISA test on ear notch. Our local teams in Hamilton and Palmerston North have extensive experience handling ear notch samples and have provided some top tips – see overleaf.



## IDEAL EAR NOTCH SAMPLE FOR ELISA

- Check to ensure sample includes skin not just hair
- Ideal sample size is 2mm-3mm diameter of tissue
- Fresh sample is preferred but desiccated, or frozen ear notch tissue samples can be tested.
- Best practice is to send samples within 24 - 48 hours of collection
- Ensure each sample is clearly labelled - each sample should be traceable to an animal and to the submission form
- Complete the production animal submission form ensuring you tick the box for BVDAG and identify the number of samples you have sent for testing

### Serology Tests Include complimentary PAGs testing

- BROCF Brucella Ovis CFT
- BVDAB BVD Ab ELISA  Single  Pool
- BDM BVD Ab ELISA (Bulk Milk)
- BVDAG BVD Ag ELISA
- CAE CAE Ab ELISA

### Clinical History & Observation (including description of any gross skin or mass lesions and any recent therapy):

*62 ear notch samples from calves at Smith's Farm*

- Use appropriate specimen bags for packaging samples, double bag the sample or use a well-sealed box
- Use a separate sample bag for each submission form (case)
- Send to IDEXX

Please call our lab on 0800 838 522 if you have any questions

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