

BVD Testing – The Use of Ear Tissue Samples

The detection and removal of persistently infected or PI animals is crucial to control BVD infection. As part of the “BVD Toolbox” of tests calves of any age can be tested for BVD virus by using ear tissue samples.

Ear tissue sampling tags and applicators can be supplied by Biobest. The ear tissue sample becomes sealed in the collector ‘cup’ which is sent directly to Biobest to be tested. The system is easy to use and removes blood sampling costs.

Possible testing results:

- i) **virus positive– potential PI animal, isolate and re-test in 3 weeks time.**
- ii) **virus negative – no evidence that this animal is a PI**

Very occasionally no sample is found when the collector is opened; presumably the ear tissue sample is still attached to the ear.

The costs involved are detailed below -

Ear tissue sample applicator (1 only required)	- £18.00
Tag & Test price (health scheme members)	- £ 4.70
Tag & Test price (non-health scheme member)	- £ 5.00
Test only price (health scheme members)	- £ 3.95
Test only price (non-health scheme members)	- £ 4.25

Prices are exclusive of VAT

To find out more about screening for a suspected PI and to discuss the BVD status of your herd contact your own vet practice or one of our cattle and veterinary team at Biobest. We can help you to establish the most cost effective approach to managing BVD in your herd.

Cattle Health Scheme Manager, David Kay (Edinburgh)
Deputy Health Scheme Manager, Karen Tait (Orkney)

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Biobest Laboratories Ltd., 6 Charles Darwin House, The Edinburgh Technopole, Milton Bridge, Nr Penicuik, EH26 0PY, UK
Tel: +44 (0)131 440 2628 (Edinburgh) +44 (0)1856 878293 (Orkney) Fax: +44 (0)131 440 9587 email: enquiry@biobest.co.uk
www.biobest.co.uk