

is to represent, support and champion the interests of the United Kingdom's veterinary profession. We, therefore, take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues, and employment matters.

BVA Welsh Branch represents members in Wales, bringing together representatives of specialist and territorial divisions, government, academic institutions, and research organisations in Wales. The branch advises BVA on the consensus view of members in Wales on Welsh and UK issues.

Consultation Response

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Eradication

1. Do you agree that BVD presents a problem for the farming industry in Wales?

Yes, BVD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle and one of the biggest disease issues facing the UK cattle industry. The BVD virus produces immunosuppression and reproductive failure, making it difficult for cattle to become pregnant and making cases of pneumonia, diarrhoea and other diseases much worse, leading to both significant welfare and financial problems for an infected farm. Gwaredu BVD found that just over a quarter of herds tested received a positive result. This is a significant proportion of herds, and if no action is taken this proportion could increase exponentially due to the ease with which the disease is spread. Disease control and preventative healthcare is an essential part of the agricultural and food sector, where vets and farmers work collaboratively with others to protect animals, people and the environment they share.

2. Do you agree that BVD eradication will improve the health and welfare of Welsh cattle?

Yes. Preventing the spread of an infectious disease clearly improves the health and welfare of animals. The effect of the BVD virus outlined above has a clear impact on animal welfare. Eradicating BVD will also reduce numbers of calves born as persistently infected (PI) animals, which suffer long term health impacts. It will also reduce the need for isolation, which can impact on welfare – even with mitigations in place such as those proposed for this scheme. In countries where BVD control and eradication has been established, an improvement has been seen in cattle health and fertility. Proactive monitoring and eradication of BVD also has potential benefits for preventive healthcare and treatment for livestock, health monitoring and disease surveillance, promoting good biosecurity, promoting surveillance

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