BVD Eradication
What you need to know

BVD - The disease
BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) is an infectious disease that causes substantial losses in beef and dairy units due to reduced fertility. Symptoms of BVD include condition loss, occasional diarrhoea, widespread infertility, and abortion amongst others. An average dairy herd would be £16,000 better off every year following the eradication of BVD. Transmission is primarily through Persistently Infected (PI) animals. These animals shed vast quantities of the virus but never produce antibodies, so never rid themselves of the infection. Tackling BVD centres on verifying whether any PI animals are present in the herd – and if so identifying them and removing them from the herd.

BVD - Eradication initiatives
Various initiatives are now under way in Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales and regional initiatives are also being progressed. It is likely that in due course it will become illegal to knowingly trade stock infected with BVD (PI animals) in certain parts of GB.

BVD - Where you come in
NML feels it is important for milk purchasers to have a basic understanding of BVD and its implications so guidance and encouragement can be given to farmer suppliers.

Webinar Invitation
We are holding a webinar on 27th February 2013 specifically for Milk Purchasers.

We are holding this webinar because there are a number of regional initiatives progressing to tackle BVD and it is very likely that your farmer suppliers will ask you questions regarding these initiatives so you need to be informed. In addition one effective way of testing for BVD is testing using bulk milk samples. NML therefore anticipates receiving an increased number of requests for bulk milk testing using samples that we receive from your depots.

Webinar - The Agenda
The webinar will be held on the 27th February at 1pm. It will include veterinary input from Neil Howie FRCVS, an expert in BVD control and will cover the following:

- Why BVD is important and the technical impact on the dairy farm
- Summary of national initiatives and funding implications
- How to control BVD effectively
- Surveillance methods - the role of different tests for BVD using milk, blood and tissue

The webinar is being provided free of charge to all NML payment testing clients. All that is required to participate is access to the internet via a computer with speakers or headphones. Please note no prior experience with webinars is necessary and there is no limit to the number of individuals that can participate.

Webinar - Registering
If you wish to register for the webinar please follow this link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2494297451564303616

For more information please email Sam Fewings on samantha@nationalmilklabs.co.uk
Brucellosis - Collection of CPH’s

First of all we would like to thank all those who have already submitted their CPH’s.

As you have been informed we are requiring CPH numbers for all farms for which we submit brucellosis samples to the VLA for statutory brucellosis testing.

The collection of CPH numbers is important as this is how the VLA are able to reconcile which farms they have had samples for.

If we submit your samples for you and you have not submitted your farm’s CPH number please could you do so as soon as possible.

The CPH number is the holding number which is used by the RPA for payment purposes and is used when moving livestock.

If you have any questions regarding the format of submission please contact Sam Fewings on samanthaf@nationalmilklabs.co.uk.

Schmallenberg

Schmallenberg is a virus that causes congenital malformations and still births in cattle, sheep and goats. Schmallenberg is being found across many parts of Britain and we have had interest in testing for Schmallenberg in the milk.

For this reason we are able to offer this testing to you through an external laboratory.

For more information and prices please contact the NML office on 01902 749920 or email milk@nationalmilklabs.co.uk.

TSB SFA Event

NMR invites you to attend its second briefing on a key project supported by the Technology Strategy Board.

This project, co-ordinated by NMR and involving M&S and SRUC, is assessing the scope to use new information captured through mid Infra Red testing to measure key health characteristics in dairy cows.

The four year project will use this information to develop new tools to help farmers improve the efficiency of milk production.

The briefing is designed for key stakeholders in the industry, including the R+D partners who have already shown an interest in the project. At the event, briefings will be given on progress with the project so far, research findings, current activities and plans for the year ahead.

Speakers at the event will include representatives from NMR, SRUC and M&S.

At the end of the event there will be an opportunity for those interested to sign up to the project.

The briefing will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2013 at Yeo Valley Lakewood, Rhodyate, Blagdon, Bristol, BS40 7YE

Registration opens at 10am and the event will conclude with lunch at 1pm.

To book your place at this event, please email Marion Rousseau at MarionR@NMR.co.uk. You will then be sent via email a booking form for the event. Please note there is a nominal charge of £25 plus VAT per delegate for the event.

SFA Data Analysis Resource

We currently have a French student, Marion Rousseau, on internship with us from Chippenham college until the beginning of May.

She has established a useful database containing fatty acid data for all bulk milk samples tested at NML. We are offering you the opportunity to utilise some of her time for fatty acid data analysis for your own herds.

Her time is available on a first come first serve basis.

If you would like to make use of this opportunity or for more information please email Ben Bartlett on benb@nationalmilklabs.co.uk.
The Delvotest BLF is a rapid, 5 minute, test for betalactam antibiotics in milk. It is most commonly used for the release of milk from tankers.

The result is determined by a simple colour change and this can be quantified with the reader if necessary.

To speed up the process of releasing the tanker DSM have introduced a DC cable for their incubators. This means that you can plug the incubator into the cigarette lighter slot in the tanker. The tanker driver can then carry out testing before the tanker arrives back at the depot.

For more information and prices please email antibiotics@nationalmilklabs.co.uk

NML exploring scope to extend it’s surveillance services

Over recent months NML has assessed the potential to extend its testing for contaminants that are current threats in the supply chain. Such threats include fluoroquinolones, an active ingredient in certain antibiotics which should only be used as a third line treatment (under strict veterinary supervision). NML’s current antibiotic test (Delvo SP) is not sufficiently sensitive for this ingredient, so an alternative ELISA based test has been identified.

NML is in discussion with Dairy UK (through the Scientific and Technical Committee) regarding the completion of a trial of this test using a representative number of bulk milk samples. For more information on this trial please either contact Dairy UK or benb@nmr.co.uk.

NML is also looking at the potential to test bulk milk samples for flukacides, since again this treatment is not covered by the Delvo test. Flukacides are increasingly common in GB and the need for surveillance has increased as a consequence of European Commission pressure on drug manufacturers to ensure that all flukacides have withdrawal periods clearly labelled. It is very likely that the VMP will require all flukacides to have the milk withdrawal periods established in the near future.

Johne’s Webinar’s - watch again

NML has now held two Johne’s Webinars, mostly aimed at vets, but they contain useful information which is also relevant to Milk Purchasers and farmers.

Both of these webinars can be found on the NMR website in the video’s section of the Vets tab or by pasting this address in to your internet browser: www.nmr.co.uk/johneswebinar/

**Johne’s Webinar 1 - Test interpretation**

This 1 hour webinar was held on 11th December 2012. This webinar focussed on result interpretation with the guest speaker being Professor Søren Saxmose Nielsen (University of Copenhagen). Professor Nielsen is widely regarded as a global expert in Johne’s disease pathogenesis and focussed on the points below:

• Different test types
• Bloods vs milk
• Sensitivities of the ELISA test and the need for repeated tests
• Probability of shedding
• Describe the risk-based system of control
• Demonstrate how different reports give you different information about specific cases
• As a vet, which animals do you advise to cull?

**Johne’s Webinar 2 - Managing the risks and practical control in dairy herds**

This 1 hour webinar was held on 22nd January 2013. This webinar focussed on Managing the Risks and Practical Control in Dairy Herds with guest speakers being Peter Orpin (Director of The Park Vet Group & MHH) & Dick Sibley (Director of Westridge vets & MHH).

This webinar focussed on the points below.

• Understanding the risks
• Creating a strategic plan for surveillance and control
• Practical tips on control-creating a robust plan easily and effectively
• Watch outs and pit falls - what not to do!
NATIONAL MILK LABORATORIES

NML Laboratories
Laches Close
Calibre Business Park
Four Ashes
Wolverhampton
WV10 7DZ

Label Orientation

This is just a reminder that all barcodes on barcode labels need to be horizontal (it looks like the rungs of a ladder). There are several types of label and the orientation of the label may differ but the barcode itself should always be horizontal.

In addition to this the labels need to be placed under the hinge of the pot. Please see the picture below of two correctly affixed labels.

This is important as incorrectly positioned labels slow down the testing as they need to be peeled off and reattached to enable them to be processed.

For more information on NML services, please visit our new website
www.nationalmilklabs.co.uk
or simply give us a call on 01902 749920.

Dates for your Diary

27th February - BVD Webinar - What you need to know
8th May - TSB SFA project stakeholder event

NML Board Room

Please note the NML board room is available for use by NML clients for staff meetings or to host farmer meetings. Please email milk@nationalmilklabs.co.uk to make a booking. Catering can be arranged if required.

“NML's use of the latest technology assures full traceability and accuracy of testing”