

# MARKED FALL IN RETAINED BVD POSITIVE NUMBERS

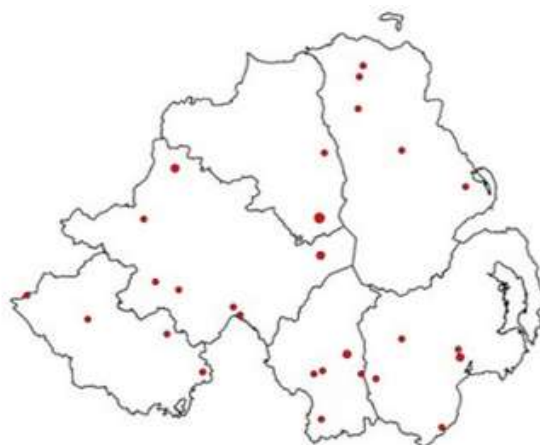


Latest statistics from the BVD Programme have shown that the number of retained BVD Positives is at its lowest level since the compulsory programme started. At the start of February 2024, there were 10 living retained Positives in 9 herds. While there were a total of 36 known living Positives, these were distributed across all counties and in Co Tyrone none had been retained for more than 28 days.

During January 2024, there were 61 BVD Positives disclosed in 42 herds, with the majority of the Positives occurring in the Armagh and Newry DVO areas. This compares to 84 Positives in 63 herds during January 2023, thus representing a decrease in affected herds of one third. The disclosure of Positive results has a seasonal pattern, with increases typically seen during peak calving periods, however the current set of statistics may be viewed optimistically and should give impetus to industry's BVD eradication aims.

In the past, the occurrence of new outbreaks has frequently been linked to the introduction of new stock. Increasingly, anecdotal evidence would suggest that in herds that have not introduced stock and where there was no contact with cattle from other holdings during the susceptible window for infection, the key risk may have been from contaminated material being moved on to farms on equipment or people. In breakdown herds, thorough cleaning and disinfection of pens, areas and equipment used by positive calves is vital, to reduce the risk of virus spread within the farmyard and also to reduce the chance of the virus being moved off the farm. In clean herds, good biosecurity and insisting on visitor hygiene will reduce the risk of the virus being introduced.

## ***MAP SHOWING LIVING BVD POSITIVES AT 6TH FEBRUARY 2024***



### **Note for editors:**

1. AHWNI is responsible for the delivery of the Northern Ireland Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication Scheme. For more information on the operation of the Scheme, please contact AHWNI (email [info@animalhealthni.com](mailto:info@animalhealthni.com), tel. 028 7963 9333) or visit the AHWNI website [www.animalhealthni.com](http://www.animalhealthni.com).