

Consultation Questions and Draft Responses

| National BVD Eradication Scheme for Scotland NESAAG Response to Consultation Questions | | |
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| Q1(a) | Do you agree that action to tackle BVD is necessary? (Yes, no, Don't Know) | Yes. |
| Q1(b) | If so, do you agree that eradication should be the aim? | Yes. |
| Q1(c) | If you agree that eradication is desirable, should there be a compulsory scheme? | Yes. Complete eradication will require compulsory measures. |
| Q1(d) | If not, do you have an alternative suggestion for controlling BVD? | No. |
| Q2 | What are your views on this two-stage approach to disease eradication? | The two-stage approach is reasonable and mirrors successful strategies elsewhere. |
| Q3 | Are there aspects of the scheme that you feel are currently allocated to the wrong phase? | No. |
| Q4 | When should the compulsory phase start? i) Immediately ii) After one year iii) After two years iv) Longer (please state) | NESAAG anticipates that there will be widespread support within the livestock industry for the eradication programme. The advent of new diagnostic tests makes BVD easier to detect and should enable rapid progress to be made during the voluntary phase. The compulsory phase should therefore be introduced as soon as reasonably possible - preferably one year after introduction of the voluntary phase, but no longer than two years thereafter. |
| Q5 | Do you agree that there should be an initial financial incentive for the prompt culling of PIs? | Yes. |
| Q6 | Do you agree that the payment should be phased out when eradication becomes compulsory? | Yes. |

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| Q7 | Should the Scottish Government designate laboratories, and should only designated laboratories be allowed under the scheme? | Yes to both questions. |
| Q8 | What are your views on aggregated test results for negative BVD infection being reported to the Scottish Government? | Such reporting will be necessary to measure progress in eliminating BVD. |
| Q9 | Do you consider that laboratories or the customers would incur any significant additional costs as a consequence of the proposed approval | Not known at this stage. |
| Q10 | Do you agree that an annual screening test for BVD should become mandatory for all cattle herds in Scotland? | Yes. |
| Q11 | Do you agree that vaccination should be voluntary? | Yes. |
| Q12 | What are your views on the restriction on the sale of PI animals other than direct to slaughter? | Agree strongly. |
| Q13 | Do you agree that farmers should be required to make declarations on health status when presenting animals for sale during phase two? | Yes. |
| Q14 | Do you agree that we should require quarantine and testing (of animals of unknown BVD status)? | Yes. |
| Q15 | Do you agree that we should allow extended quarantine under strict veterinary control for | Every opportunity should be taken to remove possible sources of re-infection. Extended quarantine arrangements, even if strictly controlled, should be |

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| | finishing units (of animals of unknown BVD status)? | strongly discouraged. |
| Q16 | Do you agree that, in phase two, there should be a general obligation to protect neighbouring farms? | Agree strongly. |
| Q17 | What are your views on requiring action from farms which persistently have BVD in their herds? | Units failing to comply should be penalised financially by losing entitlement. Such behaviour could, under future CAP reform be considered a breach of cross-compliance. |
| Q18(a) | Do you agree that there should be some financial input from the Scottish Government into this scheme? | NESAAG considers that limited financial compensation for the culling of PIs during a short voluntary phase is appropriate to help generate momentum. |
| Q18(b) | If so, do you agree that support should be focussed on the removal of PIs in the initial voluntary phase? | Yes. Support should only be available in the voluntary phase. |
| Q18(c) | What level of payment would provide a reasonable incentive for the prompt removal of PIs? | The industry will be best placed to comment on the level of payment. However given that rapid early progress will be vital to the success of the scheme, a payment of £100 per animal is perhaps a little low. |
| Q19 | Should Camelids be included in this scheme? | Not at present. It may be appropriate in future once eradication is imminent. |
| Q20 | Do you agree with the need for legislation to enforce the scheme? | Yes. |
| Q21 | Do you agree with the proposals to create legislation as outlined above? | Yes |
| Q22 | Do you agree that the requirements of the scheme, and of each phase, should apply across Scotland from the same dates? | Yes |
| Q23 | Do you have any other comments about eradicating BVD? | Despite the livestock industry receiving significant financial support over many years from the public purse, it has, with some exceptions, failed to put |

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its own house in order in controlling BVD. Should the industry fail to support the proposed eradication programme, European taxpayers would be entitled to ask why they should continue to help the sector if it is unwilling to help itself.

Q24 Are the assumptions made above realistic?

Yes

Q25 If your cost of production fell as a result of eradicating BVD, would you keep (a) more, (b) the same or (c) fewer animals?

N/A