

There are no specific treatments available for any form of BVD infection, making control of BVD critical. An acutely infected cow will shed the virus at low levels for one to two weeks whereas a chronically infected animal or PI animal will shed the virus at very high levels for the duration of her life. Effective use of laboratory diagnostic testing procedures to detect BVD virus and eliminating PI animals is essential. Since the virus is transmitted into the milk via the somatic cell, testing the bulk tank utilizing BVDV PCR is useful.

Susy Carman, DVM PhD, at the University of Guelph has established the following testing protocols to determine the level of BVD in a milking herd through the BVDV PCR test:

1. **Bulk tank test is negative** - individual animals do not need to be tested.
2. **Bulk tank test is positive** - the bulk tank should be re-sampled in three weeks to rule out acute infections.

3. Bulk tank is positive on the second test - it can be assumed that the bulk tank contains milk from PI animals and individual animals will need to be tested in order to identify who is infected.

Since PI animals have a shortened life expectancy, testing the first lactation animals initially, removing positive PI animals from the population then retesting the bulk tank would potentially reduce testing costs. If a positive occurs, this procedure should be followed with the second then third lactation if necessary.

If individual cow sampling is necessary, members may find it more cost effective to test individual animals utilizing the BVD ear notch method rather than the milk BVDV PCR method. Members should contact their veterinarian to conduct ear notch sampling or learn about other testing options.

To assist members, the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) and MMPA have established a sample

submission protocol for BVD testing on bulk tank milk. The cost per bulk tank sample is \$35. Members who want to test for BVD must initially contact their MMPA Member Representative.

The bulk tank sampling procedure and handling of samples are more specific and time sensitive for BVDV PCR testing than other bacteriological or Elisa methods. The milk in the bulk tank should be no older than 48 hours from the time of pick up to the time it reaches DCPAH for analysis. There should also be no more than 200 animals commingled in the bulk tank. Those with larger herd sizes should separate their herd and sample accordingly. A sample volume of 500 mL must be attained from a well-agitated bulk tank and cannot be frozen prior to shipment. Results will be available in approximately 7 days. The procedure for submitting BVDV PCR samples is similar to the Mycoplasma and Bacteriology process.

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MMPA Quality Premium Program

Somatic Cell Count premiums and deductions (in addition to Federal Order SCC Adjustments computed in the producer pay price) will be paid at the following levels:

- 50,000 or below +50¢/cwt.
- 51,000 - 75,000 +45¢/cwt.
- 76,000 - 100,000 +40¢/cwt.
- 101,000 - 125,000 +35¢/cwt.
- 126,000 - 150,000 +30¢/cwt.
- 151,000 - 175,000 +25¢/cwt.
- 176,000 - 200,000 +20¢/cwt.
- 201,000 - 225,000 +15¢/cwt.
- 226,000 - 275,000 +05¢/cwt.
- 501,000 - 600,000 -05¢/cwt.
- 601,000 - 750,000 -25¢/cwt.
- Over 750,000 -\$1/cwt.

A payment of 5¢/cwt. will be added for each of the following, if the count is equal to or below:

- 10,000 Raw Bacteria Count
- 20,000 Pre-Incubated (PI) Count

There will be a deduction of 10¢/cwt. for:

- Greater than 100,000 Raw Bacteria Count

A high raw count deduction will be waived if the producer has received the quality premium the previous three months for raw bacteria count.

To qualify for Raw, PI and Somatic Cell Count premiums there must **not** be any of the following during the month:

- Positive drug residue
- Abnormal freeze points
- High load count shipment or rejected load shipment
- #3 or #4 sediment *
- Raw Bacteria count over 100,000 *

The count levels for raw and PI will be determined on one test run per month.

** Note: These do not affect the somatic cell count premium.*

To qualify for MMPA volume premiums there must be:

- No abnormal freeze points during the month
- An average somatic cell count of 750,000 or less.

MMPA Welcomes New Members

The MMPA Board of Directors recently accepted the following new members:

Blossomland Local

Alan A. Nimtz, Eau Claire, MI

Brown City-Marlette

Local

Robert J. Dale, Bryan R. Perales,
Marlette, MI

Constantine Local

Samuel Jay Bontrager, Topeka, IN
Monroe V. Hochstetler,
Centreville, MI

David E. Miller, Shipshewana, IN
Leroy E. Miller, Shipshewana, IN

Hillsdale-Litchfield Local

Zachary A. Rusk, Jonesville, MI

Kalamazoo Local

Bradley J. Smith, Allegan, MI

Saline-Ann Arbor Local

Patricia K. Lambarth,
Ann Arbor, MI

Sunrise Local

Henry L. Troyer, Daniel Troyer,
Bertha Troyer, Whittemore, MI

Western U.P. Local

Paul Derocha, Pelkie, MI

Come One Come All!

ALL AGES INVITED

Join the Jr. Holstein Association on a trip to the

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Toronto, Canada
November 10-12, 2006

Tentative Schedule:

Friday, November 10, 2006

Early morning – Depart Lansing

12:30 p.m. National Holstein Heifer Classes RICOH Coliseum

Dinner on your own at RAWF

6:00 p.m. Sale of Stars, managed by Semex Alliance Ring of Excellence

Saturday, November 11, 2006

7:30 a.m. National Holstein Milking Classes RICOH Coliseum

1:00 p.m. Supreme Dairy Champion Ring of Excellence North

1:30 p.m. Dairy Cattle Exhibitor Award Presentation Ring of Excellence

Afternoon – Visit RAWF

7:00 p.m. group dinner

Sunday, November 12

Morning – Farm visits in Ontario

Late afternoon – return to Lansing



Tentative Trip Costs:

Costs include round trip deluxe motor coach,

2 nights lodging, fair tickets and 2 meals

Per person tentative costs:

4 per hotel room = \$175

2 per hotel room = \$230

**RSVP by October
27**

For More Information Contact:

Carlyle Westendorp (269) 838-8059 or

Michigan Holstein Association office (517) 655-6590

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Testing Costs Increase

Due to an increase in costs for Bacteriology / susceptibility testing, DCPAH has adjusted their fee to \$12 per sample. Beginning in October, MMPA will pass the increased cost to members requesting that test. Mycoplasma testing remains at \$8 per sample. MMPA continues to provide Johne's and BLV testing

through Antel-Bio for a fee of \$6 per sample per test.

MMPA Member Representatives have all the supplies and information necessary to submit samples for all milk tests MMPA offers. Samples can be sent in with your milk hauler. When samples arrive at the Novi laboratory, they are processed and delivered

on Tuesdays to the appropriate laboratory, either DCPAH or Antel-Bio. Samples received before Tuesday are frozen to ensure freshness until they are delivered to the appropriate laboratory with the exception of BVDV samples, which are refrigerated. Samples and appropriate forms may also be delivered via a courier or in person to DCPAH or Antel-Bio.