

February 2026

## New BVD Tag Testing Rules

### Immediate BVD Herd restrictions will be applied by DAERA from 1st February 2026

Please be aware that from 1st February, herd restrictions (outwards and inwards) on herds with one or more BVD Positive animals or Inconclusive animals, and their associated herds, will be applied by DAERA at the point of notification of the results. There will no longer be any grace periods.

A new restriction category will mean all Females over one year old in herds with BVDPs will have individual restrictions applied, to help to ensure that Trojan moves do not occur. A Trojan bovine means the female may be healthy and not a PI, but she has contracted BVD virus during pregnancy, and the calf she is carrying is a PI. There is no way to test for this condition until the calf is born and it is tagged and tested.

Provided all cattle in the herd and associated herds over 30 days of age have BVD Negative statuses, herd level restrictions are lifted three weeks after either:

- the return of a negative retest result or results, or
- the notification on NIFAIS of the death of the animal(s).

Following the removal of any BVDP animals, for all female cattle in the herd over 365 days of age, individual restrictions remain in place until either:

- The female calves and its calf's status becomes BVDN [on NIFAIS]
- 287 days have passed since the last BVDP was moved out of the herd [on NIFAIS]
- Evidence is provided to DAERA to allow manual removal of BVDFem status [via AHWNI – see separate form]. There will be a way of testing the females restricted and they may be cleared depending on their individual result.

Ongoing restrictions on herds with BVDUs remains unchanged—Herds with more than 10 animals of unknown BVD status (BVDUs) are also being restricted, until all cattle over 30 days of age in the herd have been tested with BVD Negative results.

## Preparation For Calving And Minerals

We have seen some examples of low vitamin E in herds causing a range of symptoms from weakly “sleepy” calves to increased incidence of scours and pneumonia. This problem usually starts in the dry period so its important to ensure the cows and ewes are getting enough minerals, one nutritionalist suggested minerals should have Vit E at 4000iu/kg and Selenium at 20-30 mg/kg. The only way to be sure they have enough is to blood test and check for the important minerals.

- Vaccinate cows against **Rotavirus and Coronavirus** scours if applicable to your farm.
- Ensure **Fluke** has been effectively treated since housing.
- Check condition of the stock, especially older ones, separate and feed extra if necessary.
- Ensure **BVD** Vaccination programme is up to date.
- Ensure calving pens are cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Be prepared to feed colostrum to all newborn. Colostrum concentrate is available for animals short of milk or hold some good quality colostrum in the freezer from cows with a surplus.

### Parklands Veterinary Group—Practice details

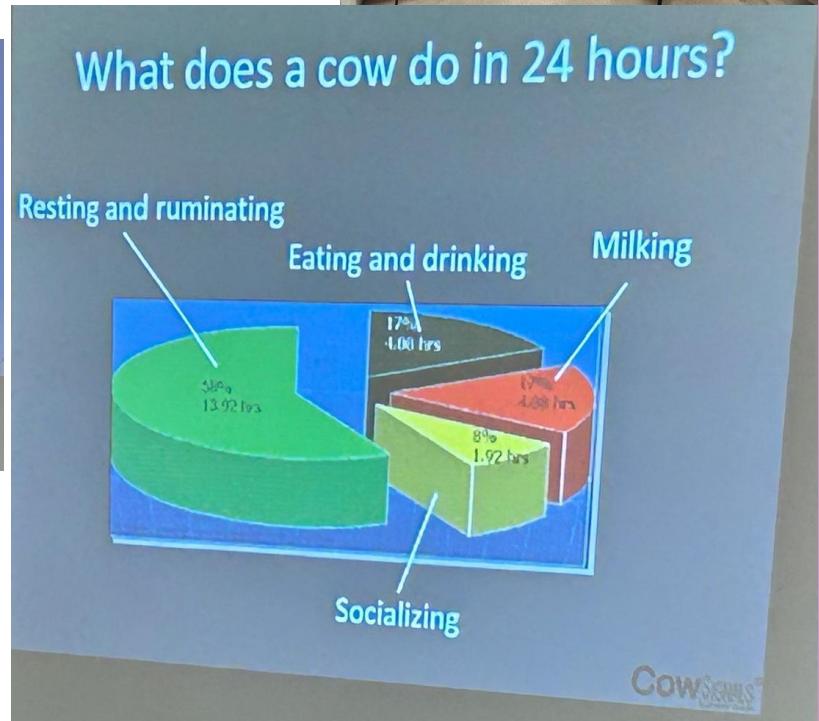
2 Caledon Road, Aughnacloy, BT69 6AL	81 Molesworth Road, Cookstown, BT80 8NU	66a Glenshane Road, Londonderry, BT47 3SF	5 Old Moy Road, Dungannon BT71 6PS	26 Townhill Road, Portglenone BT44 8AD
<b>Tel:</b> 028 855 57811 <a href="mailto:Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk">Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk</a>	<b>Tel:</b> 028 867 65765 <a href="mailto:Cookstown@parklandsvets.co.uk">Cookstown@parklandsvets.co.uk</a>	<b>Tel:</b> 028 71876140 <a href="mailto:Drumahoe@parklandsvets.co.uk">Drumahoe@parklandsvets.co.uk</a>	<b>Tel:</b> 028 877 52299 <a href="mailto:Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk">Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk</a>	<b>Tel:</b> 028 258 21239 <a href="mailto:Portglenone@parklandsvets.co.uk">Portglenone@parklandsvets.co.uk</a>

### Cow Signals Talk with Lallemand

Mark McFarland of Lallemand kindly brought another speaker on the famous "Cow Signals" courses over again to speak to us about cattle health, welfare and therefore productivity. Nico entertained us on how to really observe our cows and what to look for if there are issues. Nico provided many insights into the easiest way to fix these.



Interestingly the nearly 2 hours of socialising time a cow does each day will not be reduced, instead she will reduce something else like lying time or eating time so it is important to keep milking time as short as possible. Having several groups is a simple way of reducing average milking time for the cows.



After the morning classroom session we got the chance to go to a farm and put our observational skills into practice in a very interactive way. Everyone enjoyed the sessions and there was plenty of questions and discussion.

