Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is a viral disease that may cause multiple clinical symptoms. Persistently infected (PI) carriers continually shed the virus, which can affect the health of other cattle they come in contact with. BVD virus is an immunosuppressive virus that can predispose cattle, especially calves, to infections such as those that cause respiratory disease. PI calves are usually “poor-doers” that serve as a source of infection for other calves. The bottom line is that BVD, ultimately, can affect your bottom line. With proper screening methods, you can minimize your herd’s BVD risk.

Possible surveillance options:

- Test all heifers, cows, and bulls to see if they are PI carriers; cull anything that tests positive.
- Test all herd additions, especially bulls.
  After the initial screening, test each year’s calf crop. The dams of positive calves should then be tested. Any positive animals should be removed from the herd.
- Test all herd additions, especially bulls.
  Test each year’s calf crop. The dams of positive calves should then be tested. Any positive animals should be removed from the herd.
- There are other surveillance options. Please work with your veterinarian to develop a plan that is the most beneficial for you.

* University of Minnesota

For more information about NMDA’s Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS) Laboratory and the services it provides to the state, veterinarians, and the public, please visit www.nmda.nmsu.edu/vds.