



Engaging Meat Processors in BVD Eradication

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CE AHWNI



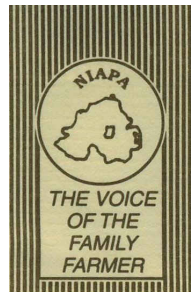
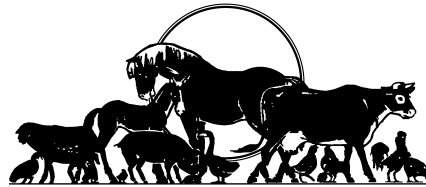
**Animal Health
& Welfare NI**

www.animalhealthni.com

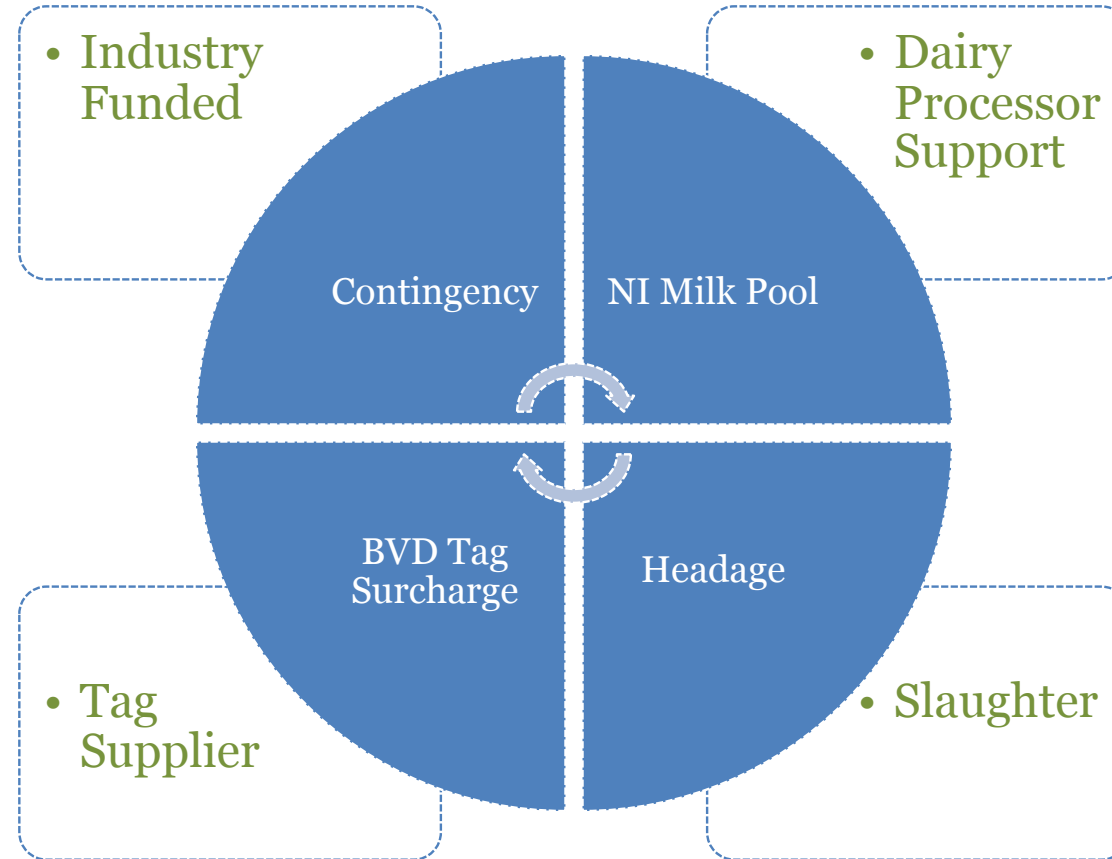
Animal Health and Welfare NI

- Established 2012
- Objective
 - Address (current) non EU Regulated Diseases of livestock in NI
 - BVD
 - Johne's/Biosecurity
 - Amelioration of Antimicrobial Usage
 - Knowledge Transfer
- Structure
 - Industry-led
 - Funding entirely industry derived
 - Independent chair
 - Representatives of:
 - Dairy breed societies
 - Dairy processors (Dairy UK)
 - Beef breed societies
 - Beef processors (NIMEA)
 - Farm organisations (UFU, NIAPA)
 - Veterinary Organizations

Industry Partnership



Key Driver AHWNI Funding Model

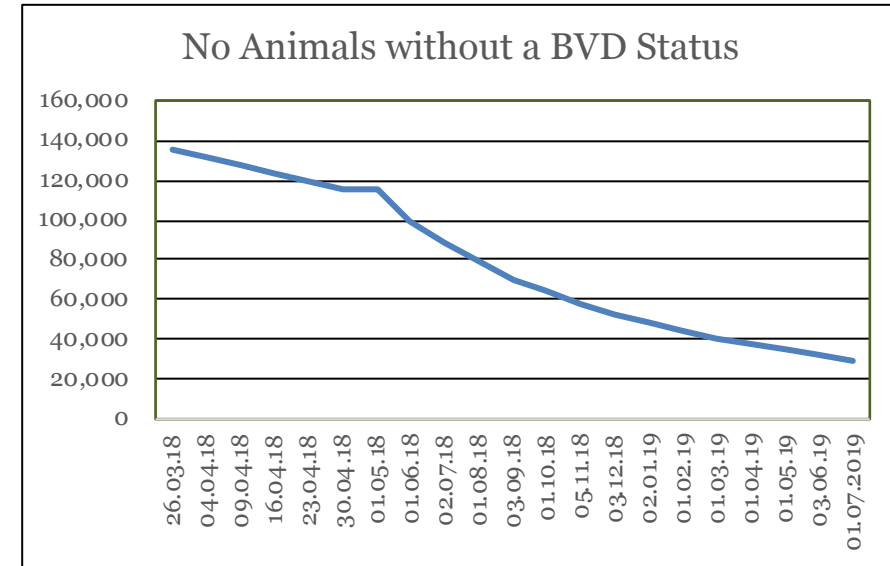


Therefore Industry Owned/Directed

BVD

Successes & Challenges

- AHWNI model accepted
- Very active engagement with Industry
 - 1.8 million animals tested
 - 95.8% all cattle alive with direct/indirect BVD Neg Status
 - BVD Implementation Group
 - Oversees the programme
 - **Message do more do it quicker**

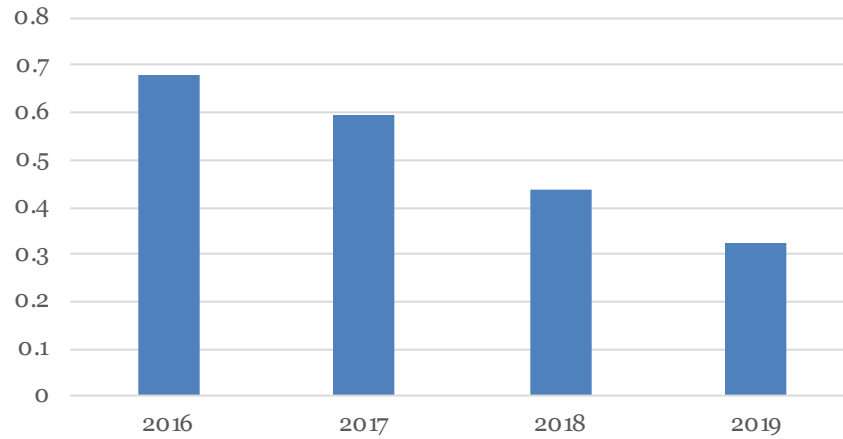


- Well established framework for public/private disease control programmes
 - Legislation
 - Data sharing
 - BVD status setting to DAERA APHIS system
 - Non negative BVD farm-farm move prohibitions
 - Data sharing/summary stats from DAERA to AHWNI to allow programme monitoring
 - Phase 2 legislation being developed

BVD

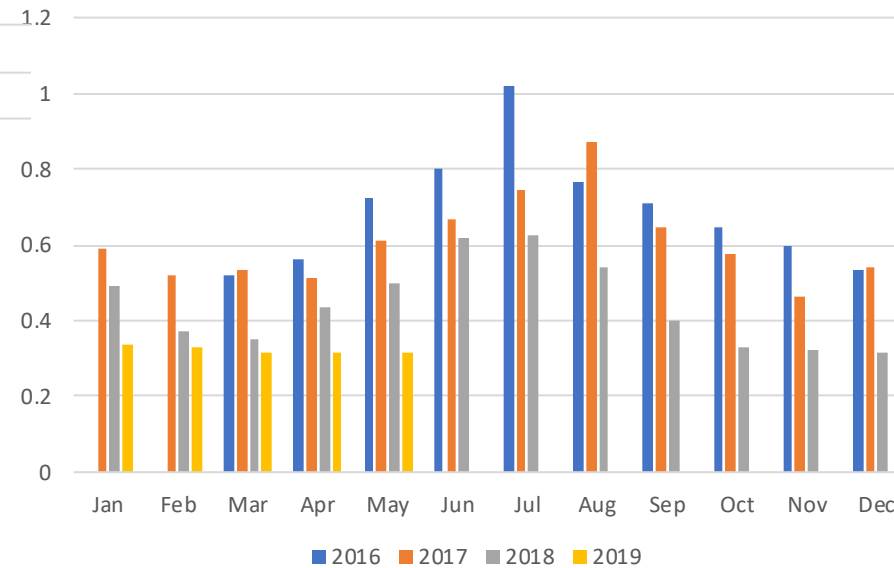
Successes & Challenges

Annual Prevalence



Substantial Reduction in BVD
Virus Positive Animal
Prevalence Rate

Monthly BVD Monthly Prevalence



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BVD

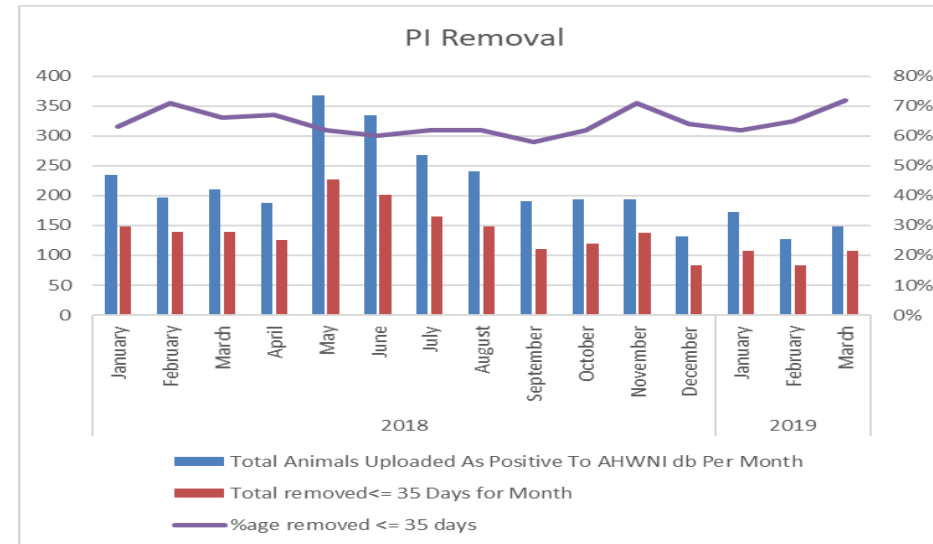
Successes & Challenges

- **PI retention**

- **Resource Limitations - impacts**

- Database development
- On-farm disease investigation/advisory work
- Communications
- Government supports for endemic disease controls

- **Challenge: What can be done to speed the eradication of BVD in the absence of further legislative changes in the near future with the limited resource available?**



BVD

Successes & Challenges

- Perceived driver for PI retention is ‘rearing to slaughter’
 - No legislative requirement to slaughter PI animals
 - Challenging due to higher mortality rates/reduced efficiency to slaughter weight
 - Intuitively difficult to euthanise an ‘apparently’ healthy animal
- Non-legislative approaches
 - Enhanced communications
 - Farmer calls/SMS
 - PVP engagement
 - Removing one driver for PI retention – slaughter market

BVD

Voluntary Abattoir Ban on BVDPs

Extensive discussions with Farmer Representatives

Presentations to the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association

- Captures almost all slaughter animals in NI

- Agreement across the industry

Timing prerequisites

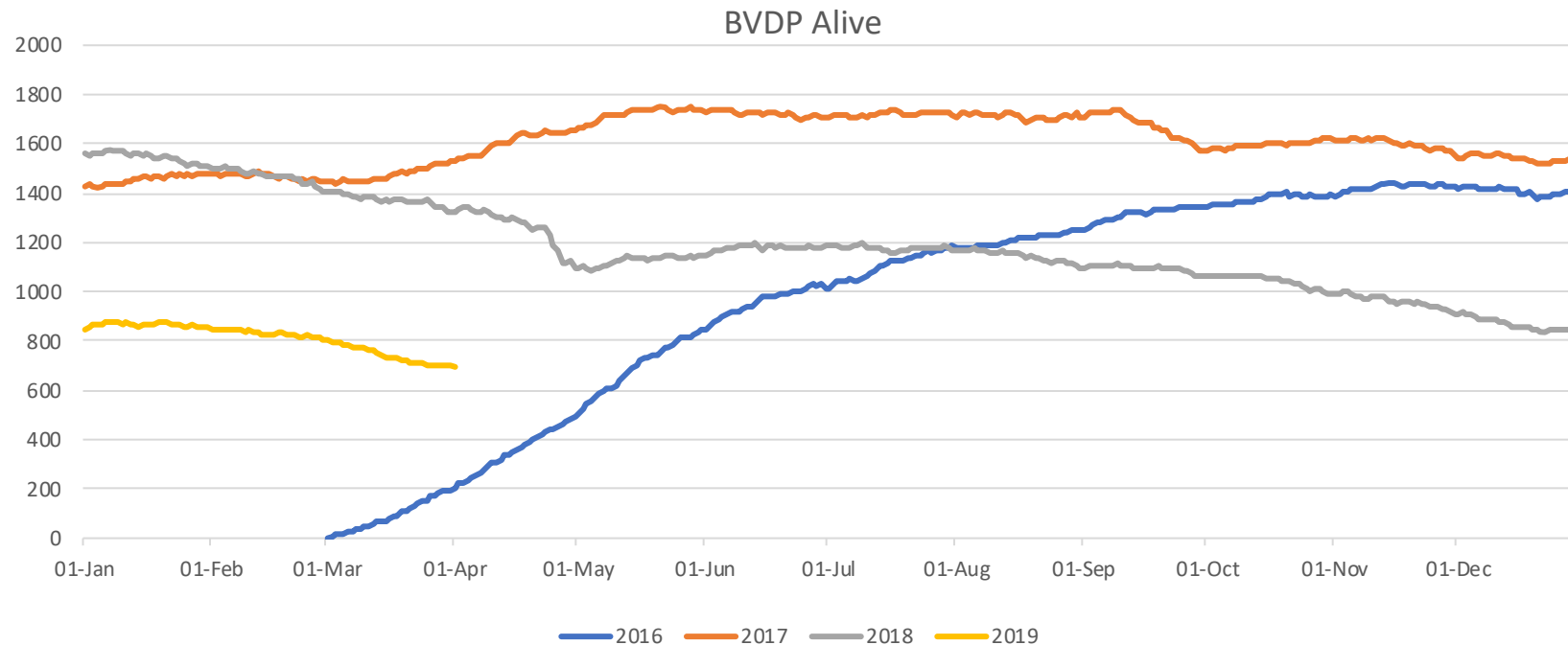
- APHIS enhancement
 - BVD statuses captured
- Industry announcement
 - March 2018
- Ban 1st May 2018
 - All BVDP animals born since 1st March 2016
 - Any BVDP animal entering abattoir slaughtered & binned



BVD

Voluntary Abattoir Ban on BVDPs

- Very strong signal of industry appetite to address BVD
- Significant message to Government of industry willingness to lead
- Overall disposal rates increased from ~60% to ~70%



Conclusions

- Substantial success - reducing BVD prevalence
- Excellent engagement by Agri-Food industry
- Established framework for public/private approach to endemic disease control
- Challenges remain
 - Retention though reduced remains an impediment
 - Lack of awareness/knowledge (despite extensive communication)
 - Unwillingness to believe test results
 - Limited direct experience/knowledge of impacts
 - Inertia
- Additional measures necessary
 - Phase 2 legislation
 - Herd restrictions
 - Neighbour notifications
 - Enhanced enforcement powers
 - Other industry initiatives
 - Quality assurance
 - Farm Quality Assurance/Red Tractor



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