The Colorado Voluntary BVD Control Program is about to enter its second year and looking at the past year we would regard the first year as being a success. However, we are a long way from controlling BVD in the State of Colorado. We continue to identify persistently infected animals and herds that are experiencing abortions from BVD. As you all know the key to controlling BVD lies in the elimination of the persistently infected animals, once this is accomplished a good biosecurity program will remove the worry of the financial and health impact BVD may have on your cowherd. Over the past year we have identified PI’s in commercial herds, registered herds and feedlot cattle.

As the program has progressed we have improved testing techniques and have made headway in making testing more affordable. For those individuals that took part last year at level 1 or level 2 I would encourage you to consider moving on to the next level this year, once level 3 is reached you can sell your cattle as certified BVD PI free. Colorado remains the only state that has made a coordinated effort to address BVD while other states have left BVD control to individual producers, veterinarians and vaccine companies. By making Colorado Voluntary BVD Control Program a coordinated effort between the producer, veterinarian, Colorado State University Diagnostic Lab, Colorado Department of Agriculture, and vaccine producers we have created a team whose goal is to improve Colorado’s cattle herd.

Along with this update you will find the procedures and a questionnaire for renewing your participation in the BVD Control Program. For those producers who stopped at level 1 or level 2 you will need to start the process from the beginning including the full questionnaire and testing of this years calf crop. Those at level 3 will have the advantage of selecting either the serological screen or pooled PCR to test their herd and will only need to complete the abbreviated questionnaire. What ever your level of participation we encourage you to continue your interest in producing the best quality cattle possible.

Sincerely,

James A. Kennedy, DVM, MS
State BVD Coordinator