



Southeastern Animal Labs October 2009 Newsletter

Welcome!

Thank you for helping us off to a great start. I hope that you find this newsletter helpful.

I intend to send out a short newsletter periodically to update you as to any lab changes and any news about BVD-PI. This newsletter is a little longer than I intended, but the article that I am attaching thoroughly describes the benefits of implementing a BVD-PI free strategy at a cattle operation. (Snyder Feedlot cut total medicine costs by 95%.) He also describes the difficulties in implementing this change in his operation. It is long but really informative.

As of today, we have tested 2,410 head of cattle. We have found 5 positives from different areas of the state. Pulling these positive BVD-PI cattle from lots has saved you money! Our incidence of positives is slightly lower than the lab average, but that is what we all hope for: fewer positive cattle!

As with any new endeavor, we are still learning about the test. So I would like to explain to you what I have learned this month. The IDEXX Herdchek BVD-PI test is the only test approved by the USDA for BVD-PI testing. This test accurately identifies 100% of positives and 100% of negatives. That is the black and white of the test. Now for the gray: the test can identify a suspect. With further testing, we can identify a suspect as negative or positive. This may be a transiently infected animal; that is an animal with a BVD infection. We recommend isolating a suspect for three weeks and retesting.

If you know of anyone interested in learning about BVD-PI or testing, please pass along our information. We welcome the opportunity to speak to your local cattleman's association.

If you have any questions, please call us or email us. We will be at the Southeastern Ag Expo in Moultrie; if you are down there, come by the Beef Pavilion and say "hi".

Thank you!

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