



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 34/25

Approved Blood Samplers – sampling for BVD in Wales

Date issued: 15th September 2025

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians, Approved Blood Samplers (ABSs) and Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) of the conditions that must be met before ABSs can blood sample cattle for BVD in Wales.

Background

On 31 July 2025, APHA introduced ABSs in private veterinary businesses in England and Wales. Details can be found in [APHA Briefing Note 28/25](#)

The Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 2015 permits ABSs to collect blood samples from cattle for the purposes of controlling or eradicating infectious disease by the Ministers.

ABSs can only be authorised to carry out blood sampling that has been allocated or otherwise approved by APHA. Sampling can only be conducted in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

From 1 July 2024, measures to control and eradicate BVD were introduced in Wales. Welsh Government and APHA have approved the use of ABSs to sample cattle to support the industry-led scheme to eradicate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) from Wales.

In order to blood sample cattle in Wales for BVD, individuals must be authorised by APHA as an ABS. Conditionally authorised ABSs can only blood sample cattle under the direct supervision of their supervisor (AVS-ABS), including sampling for BVD under the eradication scheme in Wales.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

However, fully authorised ABSs (sampling without direct supervision), must have completed additional BVD-specific training prior to blood sampling cattle for BVD in Wales. This training will be delivered face to face in group sessions by Welsh Government.

Candidates who have completed the BVD-specific training will be added to a list of ABSs who are approved to blood sample cattle for BVD in Wales.

Action

ABSs wishing to blood sample cattle for BVD in Wales are encouraged to enrol on one of the scheduled face to face training sessions as soon as possible. The first two sessions are scheduled for 18th and 30th September 2025 and additional sessions will be added.

This BVD-specific training can be completed at any time but, as detailed above, to note that:

- It is not compulsory to have completed the face to face training in order to blood sample for BVD in Wales during the period of conditional authorisation

but
- fully authorised ABSs can only blood sample cattle independently for BVD in Wales once the face to face BVD-specific training has been completed.

Further Information

Details of the BVD training sessions can be obtained by emailing **BVDCymru** at bvdcymru@colegsirgar.ac.uk .

For BVD-specific training/general BVD queries please contact - **BVDCymru** at bvdcymru@colegsirgar.ac.uk or phone 01554 748576

For ABS training and authorisation queries please contact the APHA Official Veterinarian Team at CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk