

One PI Calf is One Too Many

This Technical Bulletin is a summary of an article that appeared in *The Bovine Practitioner*.

RL Larson, VL Pierce, DM Grotelueschen, TE Wittum. "Economic Evaluation of Beef Cowherd Screening for Cattle Persistently-infected with Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus." *The Bovine Practitioner* June, 2002. Volume 36, No. 2.

Copies of the complete reprint are available on request.

Key Points

Study Compares Production Scenarios With and Without PI Calves Present

- The goal of the attached published article was to quantify the economic benefit of removing BVD PI calves from a herd.
- The study represented a collaborative effort of researchers at the University of Missouri, Panhandle Research and Extension Center of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and The Ohio State University.
- Losses over a 10-year simulated period averaged \$20.16 per cow per year when at least one BVD PI animal was present in the herd. Reproductive losses alone were estimated to be \$15.33 per cow per year in the simulation.

The Bottom Line

- Using a 10-year farm profitability simulation model, the published article states that "if a ranch history raises a suspicion of BVDV PI cattle being present, a screening protocol can be defended based on its likelihood to improve economic return".
- Evidence in this peer reviewed article suggest BVD PI calves are costing cattle producers money.
- Implementing a BVD biosecurity program for all incoming cattle and vaccination program using a MLV BVD Types 1 and Types 2 saves a producer money.
- The presence of just one PI calf causes herd performance to be negatively impacted.