

BVD Regulations for the 2023 Royal Ulster Winter Fair

Following progress in BVD eradication, and the growing awareness of animal health export requirements, RUAS have decided to increase BVD animal health status requirements for Northern Ireland herds for entry into Winter Fair 2023. The main reasons for this decision are to promote animal health and continue to be an all-inclusive event. (ROI herds have these standards certified on entry through Intra Community Health Certification). To avoid the additional expenses to Northern Ireland exhibitors of formal certification, RUAS have asked DAERA for assistance to assess and screen the Northern Ireland exhibitors for eligibility.

To satisfy the requirements of higher BVD health standards, RUAS are requesting that Northern Ireland herd exhibitors can satisfy that their herd meets the standards of a Low Risk BVD herd. This assessment will provide assurance to all exhibitors in respect of disease transmission.

The Requirements for herd clearance are as follows.

- Within 30 days of the Show all animals within the herd must have a known BVD negative status i.e., a status of BVDN or INDNEG. (Calves under 30 days of age are exempt). BVD inconclusive animals are not permitted. Any animal/s with the status BVDU (unknown) or no recorded status will need to be tested negative prior to the event. Note that imported animals may require testing if their BVD status cannot be validated.
- The herd must not have had any BVD positive animals in the 18 months prior to the show. If a BVD animal has been detected the herd cannot achieve low risk status until 18 months after the removal of this animal.

As testing can take time, potential exhibitors should review their own herd status as early as possible and to take remedial action as required. Herd keepers who are unsure of the BVD status of animals within their herd can check this by requesting an up-to-date herd list from their [local DAERA Direct office](#) with BVD statuses shown. This will allow you to check in advance if you need to have any animals BVD tested.

A report produced by DAERA will be provided to the herd keeper, and these will determine if the herd is eligible for entry to the Winter Fair 2023. If the herd is not eligible it will clearly define the steps necessary to be taken to qualify for entry. In nearly all cases herds will be able to undertake additional testing to secure eligibility, however as this testing can take time, potential exhibitors are recommended to act as soon as possible.

When an eligible report is produced within 30 days of the date of the Show, DAERA will date stamp and endorse this report and forward it to the official Vet for the Winter Fair. This will secure entry to the show along with normal criteria – that the herd is OTF, and the animal is not subject to any other restrictions.

DAERA will not be able to share the outcome of the report without the express permission of the herd keeper so please remember to complete your GDPR permission at application stage.

PLEASE NOTE:

An initial report will be run once entry closes, at which point DAERA will communicate out to herd keepers their eligibility or further testing requirements. A second report will be run on Thursday 7th December.

Herd keepers who wish to attend the show must ensure their testing is completed and results are back for this date. Any herd keeper's ineligible at this stage will not be able to attend the show as no further reports will be ran.