

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

### **Movement to the Show and Testing of Animals: -**

**Procedures for movement of cattle are listed in the Show Guidance for exhibitors. A copy can be downloaded from the DAERA website. Please also see rules and regulations at the back of the schedule.**

Only animals free from disease restrictions, including Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, BVD and Bluetongue (herd or individual animal restrictions) may be permitted to the Show. Pre-movement testing for Bovine Brucellosis is no longer required for movement to shows. Testing for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea is required.

To minimize the risk of other livestock, exhibitors are encouraged to have Show animals tested for Tuberculosis by their Private Veterinary Practitioner in the 30 days beforehand.

To minimise the risk to their own herd, exhibitors are encouraged to quarantine show animals and have them tested for Tuberculosis by their Private Veterinary Practitioner at least 42 days after their last appearance at a show and before re-integration to the main herd.

### **BVD Regulations**

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 Balmoral Show 2025. The main reasons for this decision are to promote animal health and continue to be an all-inclusive event. (Irish 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, and any associated herds, must have a known BVD negative status i.e., a status of BVDN or INDNEG. (Calves under 30 days of age, at the time of the show commencing, 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](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/daera-direct-offices) <<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/daera-direct-offices>> with BVD statuses shown. This will allow you to check in advance if you need to have any animals BVD tested.**

DAERA will check the eligibility of all herds (and associated herds) applying to exhibit within 30 days of the show commencing. Eligible herds will receive an approval letter from DAERA by email. This letter must be presented to RUAS to gain entry to the show grounds.

If, following initial checks, a herd is not eligible, the keeper will be notified by DAERA in the form of a 'Further Testing' letter which will be sent via email. Gaining eligibility is the responsibility of the herd keeper/exhibitor. To become eligible, you will need to satisfy the BVD requirements specified above.

**All further testing must be completed, with results available, a minimum of 5 working days prior to show commencement, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025, to make the cutoff for herd eligibility assessment.**

At this point a final report will be completed by DAERA and all remaining eligible letters will be issued out.

**If you do not receive an eligible letter, please do not attempt to attend the show as you will be refused entry.**

**Note: by entering the show you permit DAERA to both run herd BVD eligibility reports and to share all eligibility information with RUAS.**

### **Cattle Re-exported Directly from a Show**

Cattle being re-exported to Ireland will need to be accompanied by:

- An MC2L (produced by the local DAERA Direct Office);
- The passport (which accompanied the animal to the Show);
- Their original Health Certification suitably endorsed by the Veterinarian responsible for the Show;
- A Non Co-minglement Certificate which will be issued by the Veterinarian responsible for the Show.