

**Insights into the eradication of bovine viral diarrhoea in Switzerland: planned, foreseen and unforeseen events**

*Schwermer, H.<sup>1</sup>, Di Labio, E.<sup>1</sup>, Struchen, R.<sup>1</sup>, Presi, P.<sup>2</sup> and Perler, L.<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Federal Veterinary Office, Monitoring, Switzerland, <sup>2</sup>Vetsuisse-Faculty, University of Berne, Veterinary Public Health Institute, Switzerland; [heinzpeter.schwermer@bvet.admin.ch](mailto:heinzpeter.schwermer@bvet.admin.ch)*

Switzerland started the eradication of bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) in 2008. The concept for the eradication without vaccination was based on testing ear-notch samples from bovines directly for BVD virus and eliminate positives – persistently infected (PI) animals – from the population. The whole national stock was tested in 2008, and since 2009 all newborn calves are tested within the first weeks of life. Initially, it was scheduled to eliminate the virus from the livestock population within the year 2009 and to move to a less costly serological surveillance in 2011 at the latest. The situation in 2012 is that newborn calves are still tested within the first weeks of life. Observed obstacles for the planned time schedule were on the one hand reasons from the field: false negative test results, mixing of stock from different farms on alpine pasture, in few cases farmer's reluctance to take improved hygiene measures. On the other hand, the Veterinary Service's attitude towards a serological surveillance was dismissive. Thus, if a very easy, communicable and effective method is to be replaced by a more complicated one an early start of information is especial necessary to inform all stakeholders. Additionally, it seems that the initial schedule was set up in spite of a lack of information on the serological status of the cattle population with respect to age and purpose. We will present data and analyses showing (1) the course of the eradication campaign; (2) examples of the observed obstacles; and (3) how information of stakeholders and the communication within the Veterinary Service was set up. We describe the current situation concerning the possibilities for serological surveillance and the data needed to schedule the time intervals in BVD eradication programs if serological surveillance is not implemented from the beginning.