



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

**Terms and Conditions of the
Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Tag Scheme for financial support towards eradication in 2023**

**Introduced by the
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE**

Period: Calves registered between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023

All details on this scheme are available on the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine website at [gov.ie - Schemes and Payments \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/schemes-and-payments)

BVD additional financial support payments are fully funded by the National Exchequer.

1. Introduction

The Minister may lay down the terms and conditions to be followed in the operation of this Programme and reserves the right to alter these terms and conditions from time to time. Every approval under this Programme shall be subject to conditions laid down by the Minister, which must be fully complied with by the applicant(s). The Minister may at any time lay down further conditions under this Programme. The Minister will publish a notice of any substantial changes to the terms and conditions in the farming press. The terms and conditions will be published on the Department's website.

2. General Provisions

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Tag Scheme for financial support towards eradication is for one year's duration.

The Programme shall be administered by the Department and shall operate throughout the State in respect of calves registered between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023.

Participation in the Programme is mandatory.

The Scheme will be fully funded by the National Exchequer.

Farmers will be auto enrolled into the scheme and eligible for a payment once they purchase new tag sets within the lifetime of the scheme.

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this Programme:

1. "The Department" means the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
2. "Minister" means the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
3. "Applicant" means a farmer who submits an application;
4. "Farmer" means a natural or legal person, or a group of natural or legal persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, whose holding is situated within Community territory, as referred to in Article 299 of the Treaty, and who exercises an agricultural activity;
5. "Application" means an application for a contract under the Programme in accordance with the Terms and Conditions set out herein;
6. "AIM" means the electronic Animal Identification and Movement database of the Animal Identification and Movement System;
7. "AHCS" means the Animal Health Computer System;
8. "ICBF" shall mean the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation.

4. Objective of the Programme

This Programme recognises the contribution made by farmers as Ireland approaches BVD freedom status. The Department, recognising the benefit of a partnership approach to this programme, has increased expenditure on the BVD programme to enhance the controls and will also provide additional support towards the cost of BVD tissue tag testing in 2023. Noting the requirement to continue tissue tag testing all calves in 2023, with farmers bearing the cost of testing of all calves born in the State in 2023, the Department will subsidise the cost of tags (a maximum of €50 per herd).

5. Terms and Conditions

1. The Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine will subsidise the cost of tags set at a rate of €2 per tag up to a maximum of €50 per herd.
2. Payments will be made in respect of calves registered between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023.
3. Farmers do will be auto enrolled into the scheme and eligible for a payment once they purchase new tag sets within the lifetime of the scheme.
4. In line with the bovine tag threshold introduced by DAFM in July 2020 farmers can only order annually the number of new tag sets required commensurate to the number of breeding females in the herd.
5. It is proposed that the measure would be targeted at breeding herds, and in particular smaller breeding herds where the relative testing costs are the greatest.
6. There will be no minimum payment threshold and payments to one herdowner will be capped at €50 over the lifetime of the scheme.
7. Payments will be made to the owner of the herd at the time the payment is processed as per paragraph 9.
8. The scheme will operate for one year (2023 only).
9. Timeframe and payments
 - Payments in 2023 will be calculated at €2 per tag up to a maximum of €50 per herd.
 - Payments will be made on calves registered between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023.
 - Payment will commence from 18 September 2023.
10. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine may at any time lay down further conditions under this scheme.
11. All payments will issue in full compliance with the relevant public financial rules and procedures.

6. Compliance checks

All payments will issue in full compliance with the relevant public financial rules and procedures.

7. Right of entry

The Minister reserves the right to carry out inspections at reasonable times of any land, premises, plant, equipment, livestock and records of applicants in this Programme. Inspections may be conducted during the course of the Programme or within 3 months following the applicant's completion in the Programme.

Failure to allow an inspection by the Department to proceed may lead to withholding or recovery of any aid. If an on-farm inspection cannot be conducted through the fault of the applicant, the application shall be rejected unless an instance of *force majeure* applies.

8. Appeals

In cases where an application for payment is refused due to non-compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the Programme, applicants may appeal the refusal, in writing, within 28 days of the date of refusal, to the Department and setting out reasons why in their opinion, an application for a payment should be granted. The applicant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal in writing.

9. Review of financial aid

The Minister reserves the right to vary the Financial Provisions under this Programme.

10. Force majeure

“Force Majeure/exceptional circumstances” means circumstances which could not have been foreseen by a prudent producer and which could not be circumvented or prevented by him/her, or, if so, could only be done at unreasonable excessive cost. A claim of *force majeure* must be lodged in writing with the Department, along with the relevant supporting documentation, within 10 working days of the applicant(s) being in a position to notify the facts of the situation, which he/she feels, should be considered as *force majeure*. The Department will decide in each case whether the circumstances set down amount to *force majeure*. The circumstances under which *force majeure* may be considered include (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

- Death of applicant;
- Serious illness/incapacity of the applicant (supported by medical evidence).
- Compulsory acquisition of all or part of the agricultural holding, which was not anticipated on joining the Programme;
- A natural disaster;
- The accidental destruction of livestock and/or farm buildings on the holding.
- An outbreak of disease affecting animals on the holding e.g., slaughters under the disease eradication schemes.