

Ear notch procedure for BVD

Materials and Equipment Needed:

1. Ear Notching tool: medium ear notcher with v-shaped die such as a **Nasco**: 800-558-9595, (Order ID medium C0024N), **Dairy Health USA**: 800-276-7933, (Order ID medium 440-31) or **Stone Livestock Identification, Show Equipment**: 816-231-4020 (Order ID medium 7125).
2. Put the ear notch into a sterile tube and securely close the tube lid. (Alternatively, you can use snack or sandwich size plastic bags with a zip seal.)
3. UK VDL submission form and continuation form. These forms can be found on the web site.
4. Disinfectant for rinsing notching tool. A 10% bleach solution (eg.100ml (3oz) bleach in 900ml, (27oz) water) will work fine.
5. Clean rinse water: 3-5 gallon bucket. We recommend that the water be changed every 20-30 notches.
6. Disposable glove and clean coveralls should be worn when collecting samples.

Note: Collected ear notch MUST be free of contaminating dirt, feces, tattoo ink or BVD vaccine.

Collection Procedure:

1. Identify the plastic zip top bag using a permanent marker with animal ID or reference number. Use a separate bag for each notch.
2. Trim long ear hair with scissors prior to notching.
3. Dip notching tool into the disinfectant, then rinse well with clean water.

Caution: Residual disinfectant on the notching tool will yield false negative results, therefore thorough rinsing with clean water is required!!

4. Take a proper size ear notch from a clean portion of the ear (see figures below). Place the notch into the labeled plastic zip top bag or tube. Rinse the ear notcher between each animal.
5. Ear notches can be stored for up to 72 hours at refrigerated temperatures. Ship to the UK VDL overnight on ice, along with the completed accession forms. The accession forms should be placed in a separate leak-proof bag to prevent damage from the ice.

