

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pfizer New Zealand

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Pfizer Voluntarily Suspends Sales and Implements Recall of PregSure™ BVD Vaccine in New Zealand

Pfizer Animal Health has voluntarily suspended sales of PregSure BVD, a vaccine against Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV), and is implementing a recall of the product in New Zealand. Pfizer has taken this precautionary action following reports within the past week of five confirmed and two suspected cases of Bovine Neonatal Pancytopenia (BNP) reported in calves from herds vaccinated with PregSure BVD in New Zealand.

BNP is a relatively rare immune mediated syndrome seen in calves up to four weeks of age. It emerged in 2007 in Europe. Characteristic signs include external and internal bleeding.

Pfizer has informed the regulatory authority (ACVMG) and veterinary customers across New Zealand of the voluntary suspension of sales and recall of PregSure BVD. Farmers who hold PregSure BVD vaccine should not administer it to their cattle and should contact their veterinarian to return product and arrange for a refund.

The exact cause of BNP is not known and is thought to be multifactorial. A cause-and-effect relationship between PregSure BVD and BNP has not been established, and there are many unanswered questions about this disease.

While scientific research is still ongoing, recent independent epidemiological surveys conducted in Europe have described an association with the use of PregSure BVD in the dams of calves that later develop BNP in Europe. Pfizer Animal Health voluntarily suspended sales of PregSure BVD in the European Union in June 2010.

PregSure BVD became available in New Zealand in 2008. Since then more than one million doses have been administered to cattle in New Zealand over the course of four different seasons. The recently reported cases of BNP are the first to be reported in New Zealand.

PregSure BVD is an inactivated vaccine for the immunisation of cattle to prevent infections with BVDV. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) costs the New Zealand dairy industry an estimated \$120 million annually.

BVD remains a threat to New Zealand's dairy and beef cattle and Pfizer Animal Health is committed to continuing to research and develop innovative solutions for veterinarians to provide to their farmer clients in the fight against this disease.

**For further information please contact Helen Corcoran +612 9813 4812 / +61 428 964 825 or
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