Records Exercise: Thursday 14 April 2016 News Headline:

 “BVD eradication in Scotland a Waste of Time and Money”

The Cabinet Secretary’s office calls your boss, very upset by the above headline. Mr Very Important (and Pompous) Farmer is raging because he has been “BVD free” for years and his herd now has sick and dying calves, pneumonia, meningitis and the cows are looking poor. His vet has identified BVD as the cause. He blames the failure of Scotland’s BVD eradication programme.

Cattle Tracing System (CTS)

Movement Records

Calving Records

Holding Register

Sprayer Records

Medicine Records

Transport Records (ATCs)

Pest Control Records

Vinyl Records

Scot EID BVD Look-up

Mortality Records

Tagging Records

Your boss needs an urgent investigation, and your colleagues are all busy elsewhere. Mr Very Important Farmer is too busy to see you until Tuesday- your boss wants a report by Wednesday.

1. *Why are you involved? Which legislation gives you powers?*
2. *How does this disease usually spread?*
3. *To start your investigation in your office, what records are available?*
4. *What records do you need to see on farm?*
5. *Where else can you find information?*
6. *Who can help you?*

On Tuesday Mr VIP Farmer’s records confirm that 60 cattle moved on from 6 herds in 2016.

1. *How can you check if these could have been a potential source of BVD?*
2. *These heifers don’t appear on CTS on the VIP holding, how else could the movement be traced*?

**ANSWERS**

It turns out Mr VIP farmer has a very persuasive girlfriend, who has another herd in her own right. She is building up her own cattle and bought two pedigree heifers privately at a very good price. They were transported during a snow storm, the weather continued very bad and they were a bit poor (they didn’t improve, either. . . . because they were both “PI” (persistently infected with BVD) They were put in a court with Mr VIP’s heifers, and they ended up staying there for “several weeks” in January. One died and the other is still there. The movement wasn’t reported by Mr VIP Farmer, but by his girlfriend, on to her own holding. His cattleman does all their transport and the ATC’s for the Ifor Williams recorded 2 heifers from a farm which is not registered Negative for BVD.

1. Why are you involved? Which legislation gives you powers? ***The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (Scotland) Order 2013 as amended, Restrictions on “non-negative” herds. Phase 4, enforcement***
2. How does this disease usually spread? ***Direct contact cattle to cattle / cattle movements/dam to calf AND indirectly (people, equipment, vehicles. Very very infectious***
3. To start your investigation in your office, what records are available?  ***CTS and ScotEID BVD look-up***
4. What records do you need to see on farm? ***Movement Records / Transport Records if own haulage***
5. Where else can you find information? ***Local knowledge/ chat to the girlfriend?***
6. Who can help you? ***APHA /AH&W Panel /Scottish Government* /*APHA/ private vet/***

On Tuesday MR VIP Farmer’s records confirm that 60 cattle moved on from 6 herds in 2016.

1. How can you check if these are a potential source of BVD?  ***ScotEID BVD Look-up***
2. The 2 heifers don’t appear on CTS, how else could the movement be traced? ***Animal Transport Certificates (ATC)***

Result? Cabinet Secretary delighted, Scotland’s reputation for Animal Health saved. Mr VIP farmer a bit less pompous today and worried you might be about to cause him trouble.