



**NYS Cattle Health Assurance Program
Bovine Leukosis Virus – Risk Assessment**

Risk Factors	Risk Information ❖ Information statement ➤ Intervention tactic	Risk Factors on this farm (level of implementation)	Feasibility Y, N
1.) Animals ❖ Colostrum and milk ❖ Positive animals ❖ Bulls	❖ Virus can be passed in colostrum and milk ➤ Use colostrum from recently tested negative cows or banked donor colostrum from negative cows ➤ Consider powdered colostrum replacers ➤ Use frozen colostrum from positive or untested cows if prevalence of BLV in herd is over 60% (freezing should destroy virus) ❖ Animals carrying virus can be source of new infection ➤ Consider removing positive tested animals or segregate positive and negative animals ➤ Remove BLV positive cows that are persistently lymphocytotic ➤ Manage calves born to positive cows as if they are positive ❖ Bull can transmit virus if there is blood or lymphocytes in the semen or if they transmit pus from a positive cow by physical contact ➤ Test bull, cull if positive for BLV ➤ Artificial insemination and embryo transfer are safe procedures if technicians observe control measures		
2.) Environment ❖ Insects ❖ Overcrowding	❖ Biting and sucking insects may be a route of transmission ➤ Implement an integrated pest management program ❖ Infected lymphocytes carried in common discharges (nasal, ocular) may spread infection ➤ Do not overcrowd cow facilities more than 110% ➤ Ensure plenty of room for calves, heifers and dry cows		
3.) Equipment	❖ Equipment that comes into contact with blood or other bodily fluids with blood cells that is used on subsequent animals can spread infection ➤ Dehorn with burning type dehorners or disinfected cutting tools. Keep calves separated until blood dries. ➤ Disinfect equipment between animals, such as tattoo pliers, ear taggers, ear notchers, hoof equipment, rectal ultrasound equipment, obstetrical equipment, tail docking equipment, tools		

	<p>used for extra teat removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do not reuse needles, IV hoses, OB sleeves, syringes containing any blood contamination, or any medicine vials that may be contaminated with blood (i.e. Oxytocin) ➤ Milk negative cows before positive cows 		
<p>4. Test negative Herd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Herd additions ❖ Biosecurity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Purchased cattle can possibly bring infection into resident herd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Handle all herd additions (including bulls) as if they are positive. ➤ Test all additions, retest in 60 days and, possibly, again in 6 months. ❖ Introduction of virus (not in an animals) from off-farm source is unlikely, but precautions are recommended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All equipment entering the farm should be disinfected. Have disinfectant available for use. ➤ Do not share equipment at fairs and expos. ➤ All cattle entering or returning to farm should be managed as positive 		