

June 2026 Newsletter

www.penbodevets.co.uk/farm



Penbode Farm Vets

Since 1840



Calving Course

Wednesday 1st July at our Holsworthy Practice. A mix of theory and practical. £85pp includes lunch.

The calving course is aimed at farmers, smallholders and farm staff who are new or feel inexperienced when calving or need a refresher with their calving technique. We will cover the calving environment, handling facilities and equipment, examination of the cow, correction of mal-presentations, the normal birth process, when to intervene, perinatal cow problems, factors influencing dystocia and essentials for the new born calf.

Summer Sheep Meeting

Tuesday 21st July at 7pm a focus on preventing abortion in your flock, plus lambing benchmarking round up. Free to attend for flock health club members or £5 per person.

3 Day DEFRA approved AI course

£550pp includes lunch on day 1. Day one is held at our market kiosk at Holsworthy market, with a practical session looking at post-mortem material in our small ruminant examination area in the Holsworthy practice. Days 2 and 3 are out on farm. Tuesday 29th Wednesday 30th September and Friday 1st October.

AI refresher course

£175pp, a hands on AI refresher course to be held on farm. Friday 16th October.

Mastering Meds Course

With Jemma Young BVM BVS MRCVS

Monday 15th June 10:30am - 12:30pm

At the Penbode Market Hut, Kivells Market, Holsworthy. Contact your branch to book your space or email jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk
Red Tractor approved

MilkSure Course

Thursday 2nd July 2026

11:30 am – 2 pm

Is your MilkSure (Part 1) training due?
Why should you take this course?

Farmers will benefit by:

- ✓ having fewer costly milk residue failures
- ✓ using medicines more effectively and therefore more efficiently
- ✓ fulfilling Red Tractor antibiotic regulations
- ✓ demonstrating to consumers a clear commitment to producing pure, safe milk.

After this course you and your staff will:

- ✓ feel more in control of safeguarding your milk production
- ✓ know the three main areas which are risky and you will have the necessary tools to avoid residue failures
 - ✓ have fewer decisions to make
- ✓ have less doubt and better peace of mind.

Location – Our Bradworthy Branch

Call your branch or email jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk to book your seats (please let us know of any dietary requirements)

CONTACT YOUR BRANCH TO BOOK YOUR SPACE ON ANY OF
THE COURSES OR EMAIL [JAY.WAYLEN@PENBODEVETS.CO.UK](mailto:jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk)

MEET DAN

CLINICAL DIRECTOR,
VETERINARY SURGEON
BVSC PGCERT MRCVS



Dan qualified from Liverpool in 2005 and began work at Penbode a week later. Spending his first fifteen years based in Holsworthy he then moved to Stratton to lead the team there. Dan gained a Certificate in Bovine Reproduction in 2012 after completing a two-year part-time course.

What is your favourite type of visit?

I'm just happy to be out on farm to be honest. I've got to know many clients very well over the years so it never seems a chore to be working. If I had to pick a favourite, I'd probably say emergency work, which is something I don't get to do as much as I did. I find the simplicity of solving a problem there and then very satisfying; even when it's in the early hours of the morning. Although a smelly calving I did recently that took me three hours does have me questioning this choice.



What is your favourite surgical procedure to perform?

I've always enjoyed surgery. If I hadn't become a farm vet I would have liked to have become a small animal surgeon – suppose there's still time but things seem to have changed since I qualified. I've noticed them using endoscopes and all sorts in the clinical area. The best farm surgery is definitely a cow caesarean, especially when the calf is bright and up before you finish stitching-up. Not so good when they knock the tray of instruments over though.

What is your area of special interest?

Lameness has been something I've developed a real interest in over the years. I've represented Penbode in our joint foot trimming venture – Total Hoof Care since it was founded in 2017. But I do like to be an all-rounder and am keen to learn whenever I can. If a client has a problem I like to be involved and work with them to find the answer. I like using data and being able to measure progress and identify areas of weakness.

What are you looking forward to developing throughout this coming year?

Having taken on the role of Clinical Director once again I'm keen to review our services and offerings and hopefully develop and grow some of these. I hope to meet new clients and wish to help them develop their business with the fantastic service Penbode offers.

I'm also a director with Farmcare Devon & Cornwall and so am expecting to have a busy autumn working through the tender process for the next generation of APHA work which includes TB testing.





Penbode Farm Vets Summer Raffle

Raising money for



FCN
THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

**Tickets on sale at your
local branch**

To be drawn on the 20th June at our Summer Ball

Prizes include: £25 Ganache voucher

£20 Beaumont & Bear voucher

Tickets for Exeter Races

2 tickets for Launceston Show, a family ticket for

Camelford show,

Cream tea at Riverlife Cafe

Longhorn Shearing clothing and much more!

For more information, please contact Jay:

jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk

01409 253418



Bring your SELEKT Pump to have it serviced free-of-charge at our SELEKT Pump Clinic

FREE
SELEKT Pump
Servicing Clinic



Date Wednesday 10th June 2026

Time 9am

Location North Road, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6HB

Servicing Drop off your SELEKT pump prior to the clinic or come along on the day. The SELEKT team will be on hand to give you advice on maintaining and cleaning the equipment and answer questions on using the SELEKT System.

SELEKT®



SELEKT is a Registered Trade Mark of Nimrod Veterinary Products Ltd.

Find out more at www.selektsystem.co.uk



HOW TO MAKE YOUR HEALTH PLAN WORK FOR YOUR HERD

Every dairy farm on Red Tractor Assurance has a herd health plan. Not every dairy farm has one that's genuinely useful.

That's not a criticism of the scheme — assurance standards serve an important purpose, and the annual vet visit that underpins them creates a valuable touchpoint. Beyond this, bringing your health plan to life all year round so that it resembles what is happening on your farm is where we see the real value.

The farms where we see the best health outcomes — and the best financial returns — are the ones that treat their annual meeting as a starting point. These farms use this meeting as an opportunity to set objectives: knowing what they want to achieve, measuring where they are now, and building a concrete action plan to close the gap.

Start with what matters to you

A meaningful health plan begins with a conversation about goals, not a checklist. What are the herd health challenges that keep you up at night, or quietly cost you money you haven't fully quantified? Mastitis rates climbing? Conception rates disappointing? Lameness taking too long to identify and treat? Calf mortality higher than it should be?

These aren't abstract problems — they each have a measurable baseline and a realistic target. Once you define both, your health plan becomes a working document rather than a compliance exercise.

What we've seen work on farm is agreeing on two or three priority areas per year rather than trying to tackle everything at once.

For example, a farm that commits to reducing their somatic cell count (SCC) to below 150,000 cells/ml and improving their first-service conception rate by 10% has a focused, achievable agenda.

Measure, benchmark, review

Objective-setting only works if it's underpinned by data. Most dairy farms now have more herd health data available than ever — milk recording, fertility software, treatment records, and movement data can all be interrogated to reveal patterns that aren't visible day-to-day.

What we've seen work on farm is using milk recording data not just to identify high-SCC cows for drying off, but to map mastitis distribution across lactation stages, identify repeat offenders, and trace pathogen patterns back to housing or management risk periods. Suddenly the plan writes itself: if the data shows a spike in environmental mastitis cases in late lactation, the intervention isn't more antibiotics — it's cubicle management and dry cow strategy.

We can help you interpret this information.

Turn objectives into actions

A target without a timeline and someone to own it is just a wish. For each priority area your health plan addresses, there should be a clear action — whether that's implementing a new mobility scoring protocol, adjusting your transition cow nutrition, introducing a colostrum management policy for calves, or reviewing your vaccination programme against the diseases your herd faces.

Simple one-page summaries agreed between us all at the end of each visit work well: what we're trying to achieve, what we're going to do, and when we'll review it. It takes ten minutes to produce and transforms the nature of every subsequent conversation.

Red Tractor gives you the framework. What you build inside it is up to you. The farms that bring their health plans to life throughout the year will reap the maximum benefits both in terms of herd health and financial performance.

Penbode Farm Vets

**Did you know
our Dairy Clubs
include free
routine fertility
call-outs?**




Penbode
Farm Vets Since 1840



EFFECTIVE WORM EGG COUNTING, STRATEGIC WORMING AND WORMER RESISTANCE TESTING.

JEMMA YOUNG
VETERINARY SURGEON
BVM BVS MRCVS

As summer approaches, lambs out at grass are susceptible to developing a worm problem. It is important to monitor worm burdens through lamb groups to keep levels managed well enough to prevent clinical signs and maintain good daily live weight gains.

Mob Worm Egg counts:

Goal: To determine if an individual/ group needs worming.

Process:

- Gather sheep together for 10 minutes, on hard standing ground or in a small portion of a field
- Collect fresh (less than an hour old) dung sample from at least 10 individuals from the group into a pot.
- Collect the samples at random – Try not to pick and choose which samples you collect as this can create a biased result.
- Deliver the sample into us as soon as possible, within 48 hours of collecting the sample. After this time the eggs will begin to hatch creating a falsely low result.
- If you are unable to drop the sample in straight away keep it in a cool place ideally the fridge, but away from any human food products.
- We will then run the worm egg count (WEC) sample and give you a ring with the results and discuss a plan.

*please be aware the WEC takes time to run. For results same day, please bring samples in, in the morning. Vet/emergency dependant results may take 24 hours to come back.

Drench check:

Goal: To determine whether the wormer used worked effectively.

Process:

- Following on from a mob egg count, we may recommend following up with a drench check if a wormer treatment is advised.
- A mob sample is taken at specified time post drench.
- 7 days post drench for yellow wormers
- 14 days post drench for white, clear and zolvix wormers.
- Take the sample for a mob worm egg count.
- The percentage reduction between the initial and post drench check determines whether the drench works or not.

The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) and Egg Count Reduction Tests:

Goal: To determine whether wormers used are effective on your farm using government funding to pay for testing.

What is the AHWP? The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) is a government-funded initiative designed to help you improve the health, productivity, and welfare of your animals. It provides financial support for vet visits, diagnostic testing, and investments.

Process:

- Discuss with your vet which group of lambs to use for the test.
- They should have a worm burden that justified treatment – ideally, we will carry out an in house WEC first, to make sure the group requires worm treatment.
- Collect samples from 15 individual lambs and place separately into small bags or pots provided by us. There should be a heaped teaspoon of fresh dung from each lamb.
- Lambs should be selected at random.
- Worm the group with the wormer you wish to test on the same day you collect the samples, taking care to get the dose rate right for the weight of the lamb.
- Complete the submission form and bring the samples into the practice to be sent to the lab.



- Gather the same management group of lambs at the correct interval after treating and collect samples from 15 individual lambs, at random as before. They do not have to be the same 15 lambs.
- Bring the samples into the practice to send to the lab.
- Once the initial funding has been used, it unlocks further funding for other beneficial testing, such as trace element testing, late in lamb ewe screens, lameness investigations etc.

How much do WECs cost?

One Worm Egg Count, including results analysis and discussion costs £26.25 (as of 27/5/26) excluding VAT. Flock Health club members benefit from 10 free Worm Egg counts per year, included in their subscription.

To discuss how Worm Egg Counting will benefit your flock please ring your local branch and speak to your vets or a member of the sheep team.

Bench Marking Reminder

Lambing Benchmarking:

Reminder to complete your lambing benchmarking forms before the 1st July.

Benchmarking is real-time data monitoring that allows early detection of disease or other issues. This provides data to support flock management decisions and evidence-based changes.

We use the data to compare year-on-year performance and set achievable goals for improvement. Most importantly, it doesn't have to be complicated.

Use the forms from the QR Codes to complete your data for your lambing season. Further information on lamb deaths can also be recorded if you wish.

Once all the reports are collected at the beginning of July, we will use your data to write a lambing report, which you can discuss with your vet or one of our dedicated sheep vets.

If you wish, your data will also be used anonymously in our summer benchmarking meeting. If you require any more persuasion, everyone who submits their lambing data will be entered into a draw to win a hamper to be given out at our summer benchmarking meeting.

For further information or to request a hard copy of the forms, please ring your local branch and ask to speak with me or one of our sheep vets.



Flock Health Club
Benchmarking Service



Lambing record sheet

LET YOUR CALVING DATA WORK FOR YOU THIS SUMMER



Spring calving is behind you — but before the season fades from memory, there's one task that will pay great dividends before breeding: sitting down with your calving records. The data you've gathered over the past few months is a roadmap to better breeding decisions, reduced costs, and a more manageable calving period next year.

Mining your calving records for next year's gains

Start with calving ease scores. Which sires produced calves that needed assistance? If a particular bull appears repeatedly in your difficult calving records, that has real economic consequences — in vet costs, calf losses, and the knock-on effect on cow fertility. Ease of calving EBVs (Estimated Breeding Values) are available across most beef breeds and should be weighted heavily when selecting bulls for heifers or moderate-framed cows. Gestation length is equally valuable and often overlooked. Prolonged gestations are directly associated with higher rates of dystocia (difficult calving), and cross-referencing your calving dates against service records will show whether certain sires are consistently running long. Feed that back into your bull review before breeding decisions are made.

Review any available calf vigour data. Colostrum uptake in the first six hours is the single greatest determinant of lifetime immunity and calf survival. Calves slow to stand — whether due to sire genetics, dam conformation, or birthweight — inflate your workload and raise disease risk across the whole cohort.

Finally, identify which cows required treatment for periparturient (around-calving) disease: hypocalcaemia (milk fever), retained foetal membranes (cleansings), abomasal displacement (twisted stomach), or metritis (womb infection). Repeat offenders are strong culling candidates. Cows that cost you at calving and then fail to hold to service rarely justify another winter's keep. Discuss your findings with your vet before your next bull purchase or AI programme — the calving season is expensive to run, so make your data pay.

Key health priorities for Summer

With your data reviewed, it's time to think about the health challenges summer brings.

Cow fertility and recovery - Many cows will still be in negative energy balance. Body condition score your herd now — cows below BCS 2.5 face significantly extended calving intervals. Ensure any animals with unresolved metritis (womb infection) or subclinical endometritis (low-grade uterine inflammation) are examined promptly; these are among the most underdiagnosed causes of poor conception rates in UK herds.

Calf respiratory disease - Calves born in March and April are entering a vulnerable window. A damp British summer creates ideal conditions for pneumonia, particularly in recently turned-out or mixed groups. Ensure your vaccination protocols cover the pathogens relevant to your unit. A calf with pneumonia left untreated for 24 hours risks permanent lung damage.

Parasites - June marks peak pasture larval challenge. *Ostertagia ostertagi* (brown stomach worm) in young stock and *Fasciola hepatica* (liver fluke) — both warrant attention. Use faecal egg counts (FECs) to guide treatment rather than blanket dosing; resistance is a growing problem and routine dosing is no longer recommended. Please speak to the practice if you want to set up regular FEC testing for the grazing season.

Summer mastitis and fly control - *Trueperella pyogenes*, the bacterium responsible for summer mastitis, can destroy a quarter in dry cows and heifers at pasture, with flies as the vector. Pour-ons, ear tags, and external teat sealants in at-risk animals offer meaningful protection.

Summer may feel quieter, but the decisions you make now — on data, breeding, and disease prevention — will define next spring.

Join us on the
20th June
2026



Location: Tetcott Village Hall, EX22 6QX

Arrival: 7pm, Carriages at 1am

£50 per ticket, includes drink on arrival, two course meal and wine

After dinner tickets £20 (From 9pm)

Charity auction and live music by Reckless

Dress code: Black tie

Licensed bar

Raising money for



For tickets or a table, please contact Jay:

jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk

01409 253418

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