Farm News
August 2019
Livestock health. Lifetime productivity.

Are your cows coughing?
Testing for clinical mastitis
Practice news
August discounts!

www.penbodevets.co.uk
Find us on Facebook @penbodefarmvets
Thank you so much for your patience over the past 15 months when we were based in the Bude Business Park.

During that time we have made drastic changes the old site (building Bude’s first ever drive thru’ according to some!), completing the brand new Small Animal Clinic, which opened in summer last year.

We have now added a brand new Farm reception and larger parking area which will make it much easier for you when you come to see us. Our lambing bay will be back in operation in time for the lambing season.

The Farm team are gradually moving across and we will be back in business at Hillhead from **Monday 5 August**. Please bear with us whilst we settle in as we find our feet.

**Our opening hours will be the same as well as our contact details:**

Tel: 01288 353766  
Email: stratton.farm@penbodevets.co.uk

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**Contact us**

Bradworthy 01409 241241
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farm@penbodevets.co.uk  
www.penbodevets.co.uk
The warm, wet weather we are currently experiencing is great for cow worms and we are expecting outbreaks in our area over the next few weeks as mass hatching of gut and lungworm eggs occur following the dry spell of weather.

Lungworm can cause significant production losses (in both clinical and subclinical infections) and it has been estimated that in naïve dairy herds, a severe outbreak can cost £140 per cow, which includes losses of 4kg milk/cow/day, along with the costs of diagnostics, treatment, fatalities and reduced fertility. In subclinically infected herds, lungworm infection can cause milk production losses of 0.5kg/cow/day, reduced growth rates and loss of body condition.

Historically, it was most commonly seen in first grazing season youngstock, however we now see a greater proportion of cases in adult cattle. A combination of factors has led to this increase, including reduced vaccine use, young heifers being housed for longer, and an over reliance on long acting wormers. Combined, these factors mean that cattle do not have the chance to develop an adequate immunity to lungworm infection.

**Diagnosis**

The two most common methods used to identify lungworm are to detect lungworm larvae in faeces (individual cases) or antibodies in bulk tank and/or blood samples (herd level). Both of these detect adult infection, and do not detect disease caused by the immature worms. Have a chat with your vet if you are concerned your herd may be infected to identify the best possible means of diagnosis.
Are your cows coughing? (cont’d)

Wormers
Lungworm is hard to control. Regardless of the management strategy applied, outbreaks can still occur, and that’s when you need to act fast with an appropriate anthelmintic. Eprinomectin pour-ons have been widely used and although very easy to apply we do see problems with effectiveness due to rain or licking by animals.

New Exclusive to Penbode - Eprecis® Injection
Eprecis® is a unique and highly effective zero milk withdrawal injectable wormer for the treatment of gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, warbles, mange mites, sucking lice and horn flies in dairy cows. The sub-cutaneous dose rate of 1ml/100kg means it’s only a small volume to inject plus it doesn’t wash off in the rain! See back page for details of our special summer offer.

No worries of pour on being washed or licked off
We can’t control the weather and licking is a common, natural behaviour in cattle that increases with changes in groups and at times of stress. This reduces the amount of dose making it into the treated animal, so limiting effectiveness of the treatment. In addition, untreated animals which lick treated animals ingest a part dose. All these factors lead to sub-optimal dosing which increases the risk of resistance developing on your farm.

Treats lungworm fast
Eprecis® is fast acting with peak plasma concentration reached within 48 hours compared to typically four days for pour-on treatments. You get more of the active ingredient into the system quicker delivering faster results.

Treatment with the correct worming product suitable for your herd can make a big difference. Speak to your vet about a parasite strategy suitable for your herd.
Dogs on farms

Visiting dogs

Dog faeces can carry the protozoa Neospora caninum, which may contaminate bedding or forage. This contamination can lead to livestock being infected with Neospora, which causes nearly 20% of abortions in cattle in the UK. Any dog which goes onto the land is also at risk of being exposed to Neospora and therefore becoming a carrier and can potentially infect other herds.

A cow which has aborted a calf due to Neospora is infected for life, as are any viable calves.

Financial modelling predicts the cost of Neospora in an average 121 cow dairy herd to be about £3,000 per year!

Ask us for a free sign to put up at either end of a footpath to encourage dog owners to act responsibly and to pick it up.

Your own farm dogs

Regular worming your dogs is vital to maintaining both their health and yours. Worms can pass from pets to humans very easily and can make you both very ill. But on a farm there are more reasons to worm dogs (and cats). Over £4.1million was lost to the English sheep industry alone in 2015 due to sheep measles being found in carcases. In the same year over £400,000 was lost due to sheep bladder worm. The tapeworm Echinococcus granulosus found in sheep and cattle carcases of both leads to carcase rejection and economic loss.

Break the tapeworm’s lifecycle by:
⇒ Regularly worming all working and visiting dogs for tapeworm
⇒ Not feeding dogs with raw offal or allowing them to scavenge on carcases
⇒ Rapidly and effectively disposing of dead sheep to stop scavenging
⇒ Encouraging dog owners to pick up their dogs’ faeces

Save on your farm dogs’ health with Protect4Life
www.protect4life.co.uk
Penbode Farm Vets was the first veterinary practice in the South West to start using the QScout machine technology which analyses milk samples at the quarter level and indicates whether infection is present or not.

This can be used to guide selective dry cow therapy decisions. QScout results can be used alone for herds which do not milk record, or to augment SCC data for those that do.

The QScout test has a couple of advantages over standard SCC data. Usually a cow’s SCC is obtained from a composite sample of all four quarters. This means that a high level of cells from one infected quarter may be masked by dilution from three other ‘clean’ quarters. The QScout machine tests milk from the four quarters individually, so there is nowhere for an infected quarter to hide. Also, a cow’s monthly SCC data may be out of date by the time she is due to be dried off; with QScout we sample and test cows within 24 hours of drying them off, so the information is 100% relevant and up to date.

- QScout analyses milk samples **at the quarter level** and indicates whether infection is present or not.
- This new technology can be used as a **standalone test** to assist in making decisions about antibiotic usage at drying off.
- QScout allows us to make a decision about dry cow therapy **within 24 hours of the sample being taken**.

**Selective dry cow therapy can save you money and improve clinical mastitis rates**; uninfected cows dried off with antibiotics will suffer from more cases of E coli mastitis in the following lactation!! By using QScout you can selectively dry off without the need to milk record.

The benefits of QScout aren’t only seen at drying off. Cows which received antibiotics at dry off can be tested at 7 to 14 days into the next lactation to see if they are truly cured. What effect did the antibiotic have? And combined with the rest and recovery the udder benefits from whilst dry, did this result in a cure? Or did the infection from last lactation persist, or a new infection take hold? The QScout test can tell us.

**We think this is a really sensible approach to monitoring udder health by looking early in lactation at what has happened to cows which we know were infected at drying off.**

**We offering these early lactation tests at half price, only £2.80 (ex VAT)**

Just be sure to let us know which test is needed as pre-dry and lactation tests are handled slightly differently by the machine.

*valid to 31/10/2019*
Samples must be taken at the start of morning milking. Separating off the cows to test will make the process easier.

You or a Penbode VetTech uses the special 4 quarter QScout pots to take sample after 6 strips. Pots will be provided. Samples need not be sterile.

Milk samples must be clearly labelled with the cow number and delivered to your nearest Penbode branch within 10 hours.

Penbode VetTechs test the samples using the QScout machine. We receive the results instantly.

Your vet will discuss the results with you to decide which dry cow therapy to use.
Eprecis® Injection
Highly effective zero milk withdrawal injectable wormer for the treatment of gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, warbles, mange mites, sucking lice and horn flies in dairy cows.

The sub-cutaneous dose rate is 1ml/100kg

Eprecis® Injection Special Summer Offer!
250ml only £130*
Or 100ml only £65*
*Valid to 31/10/2019 DD clients ex VAT

Ram Fertility Testing

Book your ram’s MOT
Only £25 per ram (save over 50%)

Wednesday 14 August 1-5pm
Holsworthy branch lambing bay
Book your slot on 01409 253418

Wednesday 28 August 1-5pm
Camelford branch lambing bay
Book your slot on 01288 253766

(vasectomies can also be performed on these days)

Call your local Penbode Farm Vets today!