



Farm News

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February

FarmSkills Courses & Workshops organised by Penbode Farm vets

Take advantage of quality courses and workshops organised for farmers and farm staff on your doorstep! Penbode Farm Vets has many years of experience organising FarmSkills courses. Trainers are dedicated farm vets or other industry experts and our courses are practical and engaging. Many of the courses are Lantra accredited or can be used towards a Harper Adams Degree course.

Contact our reception to book your place soon!
Tel 01409 253418 Email farm@penbodevets.co.uk

The following courses take place within the next three months:

Mastitis & Milking hygiene - 12-13 February – 9:30-15:00 - £99+VAT – Lantra Accredited

A two day course focussing on mastitis, bactoscans and cell counts. Prevention by cow management, milking routine and the functioning of the milking machine. Become confident in when to treat udder health issues and with what products.

Lambing – 24 February – 13:30-17:00 - £66+VAT – Lantra Accredited

An afternoon discussing ewe and lamb management and health problems seen around lambing. Practice difficult lambings, newborn lamb treatments and revival techniques.

Dairy Cow Nutrition Spring & Summer – 10 March - 9:30-15:00- price TBC – with Richard Cooper of EBVC Consultant

A day on ruminant nutrition looking at the impact of energy and mineral levels in dairy cow diets. The focus will be on grazing possibly combined with buffer feeds, and on techniques for silage making.

Cattle Foot Trimming – 12-13 March – 9:30-16:00 – £290+VAT - with Embryonics Ltd

A two day herdsman course teaching the Dutch Method of foot trimming and discussing foot health problems. This course can also be used to update your skills.

Cattle DIY AI certificate – 16, 17, 19, 20 March - 10:00-15:00 - £465+VAT– Lantra Accredited

A four day course teaching how to use DIY AI and associated skills like heat detection, timing of AI, common fertility problems and gun preparation.

Cattle DIY AI refresher – 20 March – 10:00-15:00 - £90+VAT

Tag onto the DIY AI course to check your skills in gun preparation and artificial insemination. Discuss common fertility problems.

Farm Animal First Aid – 2 April – 13:30-17:00 - £33+VAT

An afternoon dealing with livestock in major and minor emergencies. Practice wound dressing, injection techniques and splinting, and discuss safe handling techniques.

Calving – 21 April – 13:30-17:00 - £66+VAT

An afternoon discussing care for cows and calves around calving, and common health problems. Practice difficult calvings, newborn calf treatments and revival techniques.

Book your place on meetings and courses at least 10 days in advance at any of our receptions
Suggestions? Let us know!

www.penbodevets.co.uk | farm@penbodevets.co.uk

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Excellence in Practice

Common Eye Diseases of Cattle and Sheep

The three common eye diseases we encounter cause essentially the same symptoms but are caused by three different bacteria from three very different sources.

NEW FOREST EYE

- ◇ Affects cattle, causes conjunctivitis and whitening of eye.
- ◇ Usually a late Summer and Autumn disease—caused by bacteria MORAXELLA and IS SPREAD BY FLIES

SILAGE EYE

- * Affects cattle and sheep
- * Causes a watery eye but with more eyeball involvement with eye turning yellow or red
- * Caused by bacteria LISTERIA which is found in greatest numbers in spoiled / mouldy / soil-contaminated big-bale silage.
- * Animals are infected by direct contact with the silage, and there is no animal to animal spread



PINK -EYE IN SHEEP

- ⇒ An increasingly common disease
- ⇒ Caused by bacteria MYCOPLASMA and is spread by close contact i.e. sheep-sheep

TREATMENT

Treatment of all three of these eye problems involves antibiotics, either cream into the eye, sub-conjunctival injection, or systemic injection.

Pink-eye in sheep is certainly much easier to treat with a shot of long-acting Oxytetracycline into the muscle, rather than eye cream which needs to be repeated regularly (and seems to dribble straight out!)

Treatment of cattle is often focused on topical treatment in the eye to keep expense down, although a systemic injection would often be the best thing to do.

After treatment silage eye can take a while before the cloudiness of the eyeball improves—signs that infection is no longer active are, that the eye has stopped watering and the eye is not being held half shut. Treatment can be stopped at this stage—the eye will usually go on to heal completely.

Voluntary Draft National Johnes Action Plan

- The aim of this industry—led initiative is to reduce the incidence of Johne's disease in dairy cattle.
- The plan is likely to be launched in April 2015..... Watch this space
- Key messages for Johne's control: Newborn calves must be protected from infection by being born and raised in a CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. They must be fed milk and water free from Johne's contamination. THE MAIN SOURCE OF JOHNE'S CONTAMINATION IS FAECES FROM AN INFECTED COW.

:Adult cattle infected with Johne's must be identified and managed to ensure no young animals are exposed to their manure or milk.

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