



# Farm News

May 2015

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## Twisted Uterus

Torsion of the uterus as a cause of calving difficulty increases dramatically at this time of year. Traditionally it was thought that it is because dry cows may lie flat out when at pasture and cause the uterus to rotate. There is actually some doubt whether this is a cause or not.

The problem is often associated with big calves, but not always.

It is a difficult condition to identify and manage. The degree of torsion varies but is typically 270° (three quarters of a complete circle) twist.

Cows look like they are going to calve, but never get any further. They frequently show signs of discomfort.

It is essential to carry out an examination on these cattle to feel for the characteristic spiralling of the wall of the birth canal, and narrowed entrance to the uterus caused by the twist. If you suspect a uterine torsion, call the vet.

The problem can be very straight forward, or very difficult, to sort out, depending on the extent of the twist, size of the calf, and how long the cow has been calving. Most can be sorted out by rotating the calf with the cow standing but some need to be rolled, and some need a caesarean.

It is important to stress that the outcome is always better, especially in the case of a caesarean, if the cow hasn't been trying to calve for too long.

So if in doubt, check her out. If there is any question of a twist, give us a call.



## Responsible Use of Medicines On Farm - 7th May

This course will teach you about the different types of drugs used on farm animals and how they are used to cure the most common illnesses. You will learn when antibiotics in particular are indicated or not. You will learn about the concerns of antibiotic resistance and how to reduce this problem within your herd/flock. You will learn the benefits of using anti-inflammatory drugs and the necessity for protocols when using drugs, like antibiotics and anti-parasite treatments. Withhold periods and 'antibiotic failures' as well as the handling/storing of medicines, including vaccines, in order to safeguard their effectiveness will be discussed. Practicals on safe handling and dosing are also part of the course.

Please book your place ASAP on this course - 7th May - £50

## Events

Date 13th August

Info Dairy Record Analysis (Herd Health Management)

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

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## Bovela BVD Vaccine

Most of you will now be familiar with the new BVD Vaccine, BOVELA BVD from BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM, which has been widely advertised in the farming press.

It certainly does seem like an impressive product. Seventeen years in the making, and the only BVD vaccine to protect against both Type 1 and Type 2 BVD. Type 2 is currently rare in the UK but a much more serious form of the disease with recent outbreaks in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Protection against it can only be a good thing!

Although other vaccines against BVD have been available for fifteen years, 60% of all cattle in the EU test positive for exposure to BVD. More likely 90% in Devon and Cornwall. So the problem hasn't gone away.

There are several reasons for this. One is that a BVD control program not only involves whole herd vaccination, it also requires 'weeding out' of the PI's (persistently infected cattle) which are the main source of spreading BVD around the herd. Vaccination has no effect on PIs and they will continue to excrete the virus in large quantities.

Speak to us about options for PI detection.

Probably the biggest advantage of BOVELA BVD over other vaccines is that it is a single dose vaccine. BVD vaccines require precise timing of doses, and the greatest source of vaccine failure is that the doses are not given at the correct time. Do your bulling heifers always receive their second dose of BVD vaccine at least a month before they are served? Very often this does not get done.

A single dose and a minimum age of vaccination of three months when using BOVELA BVD provides a degree of simplicity and flexibility to make your life a lot easier, and make it a lot more likely that your heifers are injected at least three weeks before service, as recommended.

Discuss this excellent new vaccine with us next time we are out.

### Bernie Davey

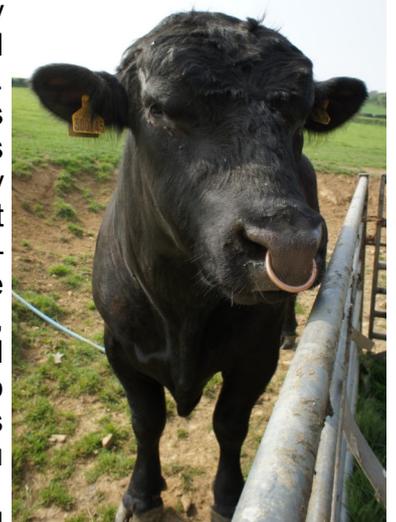
We are very sorry that Bernie Davey is leaving Penbode after eighteen years of working in the surgery at our Holsworthy branch. She started out as a trainee Veterinary nurse before making a sideways move into reception, and more recently taking control of the administrative side of TB testing. This is a very busy and complex role which she carried out with her characteristic common sense and efficiency and humour.

We would like to thank her for nearly two decades of service to Penbode, and wish her every success, and enjoyment, for the future.

### Bull Fertility Testing

Annual pre-breeding bull fertility testing is becoming a standard procedure on many of our farms. The objective is to identify bulls with reduced fertility as well as those that are totally infertile. Very few bulls are totally infertile, but around 20% of bulls tested are sub-fertile. Bulls may be fertile one year, but not the next. Young, unproven bulls are being used more frequently; testing them to confirm their fertility status provides peace of mind before you rely on them.

Using only fully fertile bulls will tighten up your calving period and result in fewer barren cows. Many clients are seeing the benefits of this and regard bull fertility testing as a simple and worthwhile investment in their herd. For most spring-calving herds, NOW is the time to get bulls tested prior to the forth-coming breeding season. Give us a call to book your test today.



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