



Farm News

December

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Dairy Evening at Holsworthy Livestock Market

Congratulations to Messrs MG & J Heal of Torrington who won the 'Penbode Vets' sponsored class for the highest points in the show. It was good to see so many of you at the Dairy evening, supporting our local market. The mulled cider and mince pies seemed popular with all, not to mention the top notch chocolate cake made by Tamsin (the recipe being a closely guarded secret!)



Calf Disbudding

So far we have had good uptake of our disbudding service across the branches, with many happy, hornless calves; but just a reminder to our dairy and beef clients that we are still offering calf disbudding at £5 a head, plus drugs, with no visit charge, for a minimum of 10 calves.

This price includes two of our vets coming out to you, so we can get on with the calves leaving you free to continue your daily work. Disbudding can leave calves with some level of pain and discomfort, reducing appetite and leading to poor growth rates and increased time to service/slaughter. Due to this we always recommend using Metacam when disbudding, as this reduces the effect of disbudding on appetite and hence growth rates. One of the farmers who has taken advantage of this offer is Tim Axford, who says 'we are extremely happy with the service, it allowed us to get on with our other jobs and prevented the job building up'



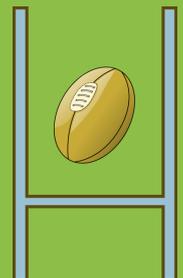
Events

We would like to invite you to a Rugby Match

Bude RFC V Plymstock Albion - Saturday 19th December 2015

Join us at 1pm, for a bite to eat at 2pm
with kick off at 2.30pm at Bude RFC,

**RSVP with numbers & we will send you ticket(s) which you will need for entry
by Friday 11th December—01409 253418**



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Successful Calf Meeting

Our recent meeting on calf rearing, held in conjunction with Harpers Feeds and Volac, was very well attended by around 60 people. The meeting focussed on the care of the new born calf up to weaning and included discussion on growth rates, colostrum, milk replacer feeding and health including calf scour and pneumonia. After an excellent presentation from Will Sinclair of Volac, we were well nourished by the Bradworthy Inn. We then headed out to Putford for a practical discussion hosted by Roger and Wayne Pomeroy of Ley Farm.

Key take home points from the meeting were:

1. Growth Rates- Maximising growth rates in calves helps to ensure heifers enter the herd at the target age of 24 months. A Holstein-Friesian calf should be gaining 0.8kg/day.
2. Calves require at least 750g of milk powder per day in order to achieve these growth rates. It is better to increase concentration of milk fed, up to a maximum of 200g per litre, rather than volume.
3. Colostrum – Good quality colostrum should be fed to all calves within 6 hours of birth but ideally as soon as possible. Colostrum quality should be measured using a colostrometer. Calves require 5% of bodyweight within 20 minutes of birth and a total of 6litres in 24h.

Calf Tracker

Also at the meeting we launched our new calf care initiative, a national campaign in conjunction with XL Vets – ‘Calf Tracker.’ The aim of the scheme is to measure calf weights from birth to weaning in order to monitor growth rates. The process will identify areas in calf management that could be improved. Visits will consist of measuring calves using a weigh tape and blood testing new born calves under 7 days old to assess colostral transfer of antibody. By benchmarking your achievements against other participating farms, you will gain a valuable insight into how your calves are performing. If you are interested and would like more information on the scheme or to sign up please contact your usual branch.

Calf Jacket Prize draw

A draw was run for 3 “Cosy Calf” jackets. The lucky winners were Alan Hancock, Dave Cobbledick and Phil Merrett. Calf jackets are a great way to offset the extra energy young calves need to keep warm, and keep them growing. It is recommended to start using them once the minimum night time temperature is regularly below 10°C, i.e. NOW!! Top quality “Cosy Calf” jackets are available from Penbode for £22.50.

AI Course

We are running another Farmskills AI course in January. The course runs for 4 days—11th, 12th, 14th & 15th January, involving both the anatomy of the reproductive tract and semen handling, plus on-farm practicals ensuring participants are fully qualified and happy to AI on farm. Places are limited to allow plenty of hands on experience, so please let us know ASAP if you would like to attend - phone Holsworthy to book your place 01409 253418.



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