



Farm News

January 2016

Holsworthy 01409 253418

Stratton 01288 353766

Bradworthy 01409 241241

Camelford 01840 212229

farm@penbodevets.co.uk

Lely FMS Advisory Service

Earlier this month Andy Stokes attended a 3 day Lely Farm Management Support (FMS) course looking at their automated milking systems. More and more robots are appearing on our clients herds so it is imperative that we are up to speed with this technology and way of farming milking cows. A Lely robot gathers up to 200 data points on every cow, every day, so there is a vast amount of information available to look at and interpret. Milk access tables, feed tables and udder health warnings were covered, as well as a farm visit to put all of it into practice. The course looked at how to optimise a robot, particularly once it is running at full capacity and there's no free time. The course finished with an exam which Andy passed and qualifies him as a Level 1 FMS Milking Advisor.



So if you're not getting enough milkings or refusals per day or too many failures per day or you're confused by your milk access and feed tables, please contact Andy to investigate.

Also, look out for a message from Andy to become friends on the Lely Benchmark and Farmvisit App for daily monitoring or your herd's performance. And thanks to those of you who have already accepted him as a friend!"

Herd Health Plans

The Herd Health Plans required by the dairy companies have become more demanding in terms of the information they require. Analysing records and taking the opportunity to review the protocols and production figures for every farm, is very constructive in terms of improving animal health and in turn profitability on farm. Please contact us for a health plan review with as much notice as possible before your inspection is due. To review the plan in order to fulfil the auditors requirements takes longer than signing a signature alone. Hence, dropping your plan in an hour before your inspection is no longer an option!!

Events

Date 11th, 12th 14th & 15th January—This course is now full

Info Farmskills AI course—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.

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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Reduction in Milk Yield associated with IBR Virus

When an animal is sick with IBR, they usually show respiratory signs with runny eyes and a high temperature. Other signs include infertility, abortions and an associated sudden decrease in milk yield. It is estimated that the direct costs of IBR to the UK farming industry are up to £4 million per year.

However, the IBR virus instead of causing sick cows may instead persist and lead to more insidious production losses rather than overt clinical signs. A recent study published in the 'Vet Record' showed that cows which were seropositive (i.e. had antibodies) to IBR produced 2.6kg/day less milk throughout lactation compared with cows that were seronegative (i.e. didn't have any IBR antibodies present), totalling almost 1000kg of lost milk per year.

This highlights the importance of regular monitoring e.g. quarterly bulk milk samples in a non-infected herd, plus the necessity of effective risk management, such as biosecurity and vaccination, even in the absence of any clinical signs. Please speak to one of us to tailor an IBR control plan for use in your own individual farm.

Camelford Show

Camelford Show require a part time secretary to take on the organisation of the show. An agricultural background is preferable and computer skills essential.

Honorarium to be discussed.

For applications or further information please phone the chairman on 01840 261612.



An update of Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT)

As discussed in a previous newsletter, Arla are bringing in changes requiring its farmers to use selective dry cow therapy (SDCT), some of you will have had, or recently be having an audit, where you will be required to show how you are planning to make the changes to SDCT within the next 18 months. SDCT is beneficial in that it reduces the risk of antibiotic resistance, and will also reduce the cost to farmers. To successfully move onto SDCT it will be necessary to have some degree of milk recording to monitor individual cow's Somatic Cell Count (SCC). This is essential so that cows with subclinical mastitis still receive antibiotics, as a teat sealant alone will trap the infection. For this reason it is also essential that cows receiving just a teat sealant (Orbeseal) have it administered with a high level of care and hygiene. To help with mastitis prevention, we are registered with DairyCo to perform their Mastitis Control Plan, where we can visit your farm and go through existing routines, housing etc. with you, and identify areas that can reduce mastitis incidence. If mastitis is an issue on your farm, feel free to contact us for more information.

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