



Farm News

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Should you be treating your mastitis cases with a dose of Metacam?

Many of you don't need any convincing of the benefits of using Metacam in your cows, but here's a little bit more evidence of its effectiveness.....

A study has demonstrated that the addition of Metacam in the treatment of mild to moderate clinical mastitis results in

- ⇒ Increased first service conception rate
- ⇒ Decreased number of inseminations required to conceive
- ⇒ Increased probability of pregnancy at 120 days after calving
- ⇒ Increased bacterial cure rate of the infected quarter

Metacam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pain relieving drug, similar to ibuprofen used in humans. It's a simple one off injection under the skin that lasts 3 days given at a dose of 1ml/40Kg with a milk withdrawal of 5days. We sell 50ml, 100ml and 250ml bottles.



Liz Howse & Chris Watson

Liz and Chris have returned working as farm vets in NZ for 4 months; a massively different experience from vetting at Penbode. They gained a good understanding of the NZ block calving system, large-scale synchronisation programmes and became experts in disbudding calves with thousands under their belts! They then travelled for two months through NZ and then Australia which was the highlight of the trip. We are all delighted to have them back.

Our i-Pad Competition Winner 2015

The lucky winner of our 2015 i-Pad Air competition was Ada Brookes, one of our beef suckler farmers from Poundstock.

Here she is receiving her prize from Jonathan Chapman.



Leptavoid



Leptospirosis vaccine,
25 doses for ONLY £40
Cash or DD price,
ex VAT.

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Calf Tracker

Good calf management is key to lifetime performance

Penbode Farm vets are really pleased to be involved with the NEW nationwide XLVets initiative called Calf Tracker. This is aimed at improving your calf health & growth rates, ensuring they reach their potential.

Using 'easy to get' data from your farm, we will measure your current performance. By keeping track of just 5 KPI's, performance data can be collected for each farm and then benchmarked against each other. The 5 KPI's that the Calf Tracker initiative will measure are:

1. Growth rate to weaning / 8 weeks of age
2. Total mortality (0-8 weeks of age)
3. Pneumonia rate
4. Scour rate
5. Total protein on a blood sample at 1-8 days of age to assess the success of colostral transfer.

A number of farms have already seen improvements in calf growth rates and health by fine tuning the management of feeding colostrum and milk replacer.



Rumen drinking in milk fed dairy calves

Rumen drinking and secondary acidosis is a problem of artificially reared calves. These may be one off cases, but in some herds it can occur in a larger proportion of calves.

Symptoms include reduced feed intake, poor growth rate, rough hair coat, abdominal pain, rumen and abomasal bloating and pasty faeces. On post mortem examination, the rumen contents are pale yellow to white, and smell foul. The presence of milk in the rumen causes acidosis, inflammation and thickening of the rumen wall. This exacerbates the problem, as inflammation hampers the closure of the oesophageal groove which should be diverting milk away from the rumen.

There are a number of factors which can predispose to ruminal drinking on a group basis. They include:

- ◆ Calf diarrhoea
- ◆ Irregular feeding times
- ◆ Infrequent feeding
- ◆ Low quality milk replacer
- ◆ Drinking from an open bucket rather than a teat
- ◆ Drinking too quickly from worn out teats
- ◆ Too low a temperature of milk – ideally milk should be fed at body temperature (39°C)
- ◆ Height of feeding – the teat should be placed at about nose height for calves
- ◆ Stress – transport, changes in groups, underlying disease

Ensuring good, consistent feeding practices and hygiene will minimise the number of calves affected.

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