



# Farm News

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## Holsworthy Show



We were delighted to see some retired Penbode partners including **Rupert Kirkwood, Andrew Cobner and John Boundy**. We hope they enjoyed catching up with old friends over

a homemade scone (of which we gave away over 480!)

**Congratulations to all show winners**, especially those competing in the **Young Handlers' Classes**. We hope they enjoyed their Penbode goodie bags.

## Coughing cows?

### Eprizero

Nil milk w/d wormer for cattle

**5 litres plus a FREE gun**

**ONLY £285 plus VAT**  
*(cash or DD price)*

## Improve calf growth rates from birth to weaning with the National XLVets Calf Tracker Initiative

The **National XLVets Calf Tracker service** can help you improve your calf health and growth rates, ensuring you get the best from your calves.

- ◆ **At a monthly visit** —We will use a weigh tape to measure each pre-weaned calf. Calves under eight days of age will be assessed for colostral transfer by blood sampling. Blood analysis is included in the cost.
- ◆ We will capture pneumonia and scour rates and calculate **growth rate per day**. This information will help us identify how **you can maximize the health of your calves and improve their growth rates**.

**The first two months of a calf's life are the most important.** This is when they are the most efficient at converting feed into growth; 1kg/day of feed can give 700g of daily gain, whereas a two-year old heifer eating 2kg will only put on 200g of weight. Clearly the calf is far more efficient, and getting this period right will reap big rewards.

Getting calves off to a good start not only results in an earlier age at first calving but a faster growing calf will have better immunity and so fend off disease more easily.

We recommend a high level of feeding to achieve 0.7-0.8kg/day of gain over the first two months. Calves will need a lot of milk powder – at least 700 grams per day – which can be provided in two daily feeds of 2 litres in volume at 180 grams of powder per litre (2 x 2 x 180 = 720g).

The National XLVets Calf Tracker service is only £30 per visit.

**Penbode are offering your first visit FREE.**  
**Contact your nearest Penbode branch for details.**



[www.penbodevets.co.uk](http://www.penbodevets.co.uk)

**XLvets**  
Excellence in Practice

## FREE Dry Off Kit with every Orbeseal purchase Help manage the udder health of dry cows

The dry period represents a huge risk for cows acquiring new mastitis infections.

The time soon after drying off, and in the run-up to, and after calving are the most vulnerable times.

The risks can be reduced by:

- ◆ Maintaining a clean, dry and well ventilated dry cow environment
- ◆ Reducing yields prior to drying off
- ◆ Standing cows on a clean area for 30 minutes after drying off
- ◆ Good fly control
- ◆ Ensuring good dry cow nutrition: maintain body condition score, supply sufficient minerals, especially selenium/vitamin E
- ◆ Dry off as a separate task at the end of milking when you can take your time, NOT during milking when it will be rushed
- ◆ Carefully infusing an appropriate dry cow therapy



### What's included?

- 30 cow pack** — 120 swabs, 1 litre surgical spirit, How To Guide
- 10 cow pack** — 40 swabs, 1 litre surgical spirit, How To Guide

We firmly believe that **every cow should be dried off with Orbeseal** in order to prevent new dry period infections.

### How should Orbeseal be infused?

1. Teats must be **clean and dry**. Use a pre-dip and paper towel or medicated wipes to ensure this is the case.
2. Wearing clean gloves disinfect the teat ends with swabs soaked in surgical spirit. Repeat until the swab comes away clean, using a new swab for each teat.
3. **Disinfect far teats before the near teats** in order to avoid contaminating what you have just cleaned.
4. Infuse Orbeseal, **starting with the teats nearest you**. Pinch the teat canal closed at the base of the udder so that the Orbeseal fills the teat only. Use one Orbeseal syringe per quarter and **Do NOT massage up into the udder**.
5. Apply a post-dip.
6. Allow to stand somewhere clean for 30 minutes before removing from the milking herd environment. You want to avoid stimulating milk let-down in these cows.

*The use of spirit soaked swabs is a crucial part of this process and it has been proven that cows dried off in this way suffer less mastitis in the following lactation.*

**For this reason every pack of Orbeseal will now come with a FREE Dry Off Kit of surgical spirit and swabs.**

*Note: The 30 cow kit is also available purchase for £7.50*

**Don't miss out on your next monthly copy of Farm News!  
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