



July 2026 Newsletter

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Penbode Farm Vets

Since 1840



DEVON COUNTY SHOW AND ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW WITH VET TECH JORJA

This year, we thoroughly enjoyed exhibiting our cattle at the Devon County Show and Royal Cornwall Show, achieving excellent results and creating plenty of memorable moments.

At the Devon County Show, Ruby secured second place in the Cow and Calf class. Daim also had a standout performance, winning the YFC Beef Calf class and earning the title of Reserve YFC Beef Champion.





We also saw success in the handling classes, taking first place in the Young Handler class and being named Champion Overall Mature Handler. It was a particular honour to take part in the YFC Cattle Lines Stockman competition, where we were judged throughout the week on our cattle care—a win in this category was a truly rewarding achievement.

A highlight of the weekend was the Fancy Dress class, where our Top Gun-themed cow, designed by Matilda, placed fourth. This entry was a crowd favourite and provided plenty of entertainment.



Our success continued at the Royal Cornwall Show, with Ruby taking first place in the Cow and Calf class. The event also provided a fantastic opportunity to exhibit quality cattle on behalf of other exhibitors. We look forward to the rest of the show season—keep an eye out for us at your local shows!



Proud to be the Official Farm Vets of Woolsery Agricultural Show 2026.

We're looking forward to catching up with you on **27 July 2026.**

Come and join us for a cream tea and a chat.



WOOLSERY & DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL SHOW



For more information regarding all the services we offer in the Devon and Cornwall area. Please scan the QR Code

Stratton | Camelford | Bradworthy | Holsworthy
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Penbode Farm Vets

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**Supporting our local farming
community since 1840**



WELL, WHAT CAN WE SAY? YOU LOT KNOW HOW TO PARTY!!

BY JAY WAYLEN



What a cracking night we all had at our first Penbode Farm Vets Charity Ball, we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did! Excellent food, fabulous company and fantastic music from Reckless.

A huge thank you to all of those who made donations towards the evening. A special thank you to Roly Nancekivell, Mark Bromell of Kivells Agriculture and Clawton Young Farmers, your help on the night was very much appreciated. Thank you to each and everyone of you who bought a ticket, it goes without saying the night wouldn't have been possible without you all.

It was great to bring the farming community together for the night, whilst raising funds for two great causes, The Farming Community Network and Clawton YFC.

We are still finalising the total amount raised and this will be announced soon.



Thank you to the following
for their support

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MEET EMILY

VETERINARY SURGEON



Emily graduated from the University of Surrey in July 2025. She is eager to engage in all aspects of farm veterinary work and particularly enjoys surgery.

What is your favourite type of visit?

I really enjoy solving a puzzle, so a lambing with tangled twins or triplets is my favourite visit. Trying to picture what is going on inside without being able to see it and making sense of the mess is really satisfying for me, with the added bonus of having some cute lambs at the end!

What is your favourite surgical procedure to perform?

My favourite operation is a caesarean section, in both ewes and cows. Cow caesareans can be a challenge, but it is definitely worth it to have a healthy calf on the floor. It's always great to see the lambs or calves trying to stand whilst we're stitching up, even if they do try and knock the surgical equipment over!

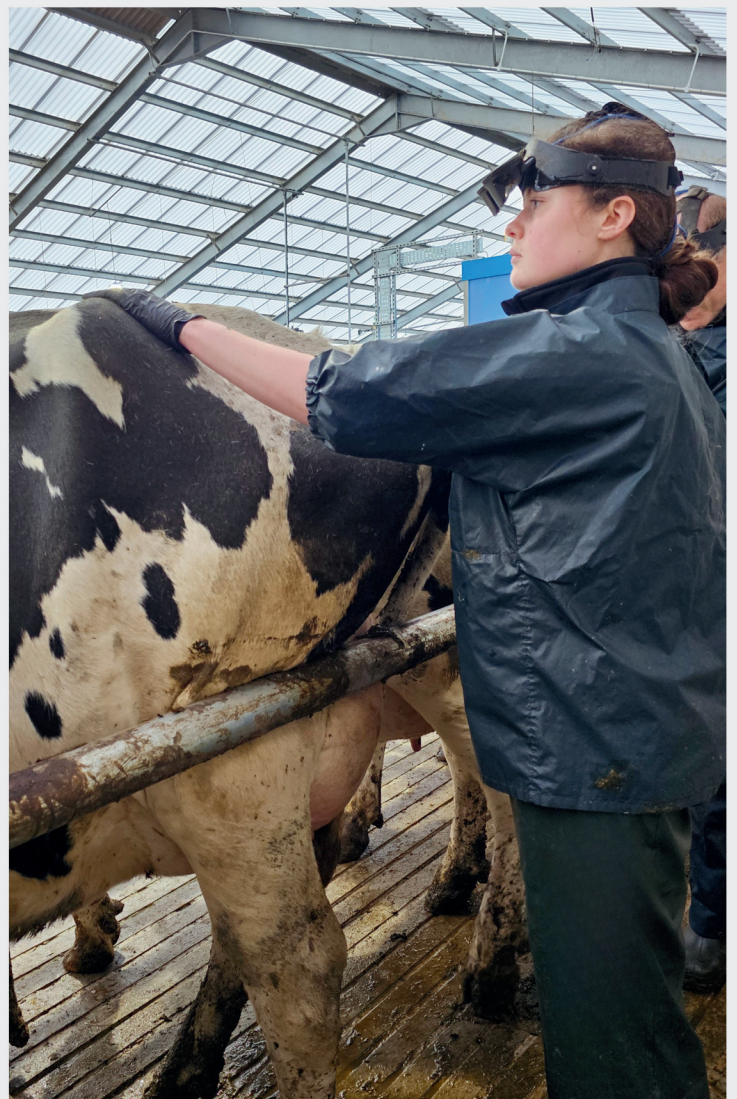


What is your area of special interest?

I am currently interested in all areas of farm vetting and enjoy the variety that this brings. I enjoy cattle fertility work and going to routine dairy visits, but as you can see above, I also really like the sheep side of things too.

What are you looking forward to developing throughout this coming year?

I am looking forward to helping Matilda with the Smallholders Club. Also, I am passionate about education, so I am excited to help organise talks and meetings across all areas.





CLOSTRIDIAL DISEASE

BY EMILY BOARDMAN
VETERINARY SURGEON

Clostridia are one of the oldest known pathogens to cause disease in livestock. There are multiple different disease syndromes that are caused by clostridia. Clostridial bacteria can produce spores that can persist in the soil for a very long time. Many of the clostridial organisms are 'commensals', meaning that they can exist in healthy animals, causing no problems; however, if rapid proliferation is triggered (for example by a period of stress) they can release toxins and enzymes that can have fatal consequences. Due to clostridial organisms being present in soil and within the animals themselves it is impossible to completely prevent exposure, and as treatment is usually unsuccessful, vaccination is vital. Here is an outline of some of the different clostridial disease syndromes:

Black Leg – caused by *Clostridium chauvoei*. Contamination of wounds with clostridial spores, activated by muscle trauma or injuries (e.g. at feed barrier). The spores then produce toxins that cause sudden death.

Tetanus – caused by *Clostridium tetani*. Also caused by wound contamination, the toxin produced then attacks the nervous system, leading to stiffness, lock jaw, recumbency, seizures and eventually death.

Botulism – caused by ingestion of clostridial toxins. These toxins are often associated with bird carcasses or poultry manure. Botulism causes weakness, recumbency and death. (Not covered by multivalent vaccines).

Black Disease – caused by *Clostridium novyi*. Most likely to occur in late summer/early autumn as toxin production is triggered by immature fluke migrating through the liver.

Malignant oedema – caused by *Clostridium septicum*. Also called big head disease in rams and grass gangrene. Can be caused by injections or other wounds becoming contaminated and resulting in necrosis and oedema. Death usually occurs within 48 hours.

Clostridia Perfringens

Lamb dysentery – *Cl. perfringens* Type B. Causes diarrhoea and sudden death.

Haemorrhagic enteritis – *Cl. perfringens* Type C. Causes bloody diarrhoea and sudden death.

Pulpy kidney – *Cl. perfringens* Type D. Signs include incoordination, seizures and sudden death.

As you can see a lot of the conditions are likely to result in death and therefore prevention via vaccination is the best control measure. Antibodies from the dam can provide immunity for the calf/lamb for the first few weeks of life, but this is reliant on good colostrum intake. To provide ongoing cover for lambs and calves they should also be vaccinated. There are a few options for vaccination:

Table 1. Clostridial vaccines licensed in cattle and sheep

Disease	Cattle and sheep			Sheep only			Cattle only
	Blackleg vaccine	Bravoxin 10 and Covexin 10	Covexin 8	Heptavac P Plus*	Lambivac	Ovivac P Plus*	Tribovac T
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type A		×					
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type B		×	×	×	×		×
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type C		×	×	×	×		
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type D		×	×	×	×	×	
<i>Clostridium tetani</i>		×	×	×	×	×	×
<i>Clostridium chauvoei</i>	×	×	×	×		×	×
<i>Clostridium septicum</i>		×	×	×		×	×
<i>Clostridium novyi</i> type A							
<i>Clostridium novyi</i> type B		×	×	×			
<i>Clostridium haemolyticum</i>		×	×				×
<i>Clostridium sordellii</i>		×					

*Also protects against *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Pasteurella trehalosi*.

(<https://www.vettimes.com/news/vets/livestock/diversification-of-clostridial-conditions-in-cattle-and-sheep>)

To discuss clostridial disease and vaccination further please call your local Penbode branch and ask to speak to a vet.

Penbode Farm Vets

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Did you know our Dairy Clubs include free routine fertility call-outs?



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