Newsletter
November 2026

www.penbodevets.co.uk/farm



Penbode Farm Vets
Since 1840

Stay connected with Penbode Farm Vets

Join our email list and you'll receive updates on upcoming courses, practical farm-focused newsletters, and timely information to support the health and productivity of your livestock. Sign up to make sure you never miss the latest guidance, events, and resources from our team.



JOIN OUR TEAM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN APPROVED TB TESTER

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable Approved TB Tester to join our friendly and dedicated team.

Practical, on-farm experience working with cattle is essential for this role. We are looking for someone who is confident working in an agricultural environment, understands the realities of farm life and can build positive relationships with farmers and colleagues.

You will need to be approachable, professional and comfortable communicating with farmers from all backgrounds, helping to build trust and maintain strong working relationships.

This position offers a four-day working week, although some early starts, late finishes and flexibility will be required to meet the needs of our farmers and the demands of the role.

What we're looking for:

- Essential: At least six months' hands-on experience working with cattle on farm, with experience of working directly with farmers.
- Previous experience as a qualified TB tester would be an advantage, but not essential, as full training will be provided for the right candidate.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, particularly within the agricultural industry.
- A practical, flexible approach and the ability to work confidently outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Good IT skills and computer literacy.
- A full UK driving licence.
- A minimum of three GCSEs or equivalent, including English, Maths and a Science subject.
- Prepared to undergo a mandatory DBS check.

What we offer:

- We offer an excellent employment package, including:
- Pension scheme
- Westfield heath and rewards
- Company vehicle
- Training and development opportunities
- Staff discount- T&C's apply

If you have practical on-farm experience, enjoy working with cattle and farmers, and have the people skills needed to thrive in the agricultural industry, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more, and for a full job description please contact Harriet Bristow on 01409 253418 or harriet.bristow@penbodevets.co.uk.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to harriet.bristow@penbodevets.co.uk and theresa.pyke@penbodevets.co.uk

Application closing date: Monday 9th November 2026



MEET FARM VET SAM

Veterinary Surgeon
BVSc MRCVS

Many of you will already have met Sam after starting at Penbode this summer. He's settled in really well and is looking forward to meeting and working with you all, here's a little bit about him:

Sam graduated from the University of Bristol in 2026. After seeing practice and working on farms all over the UK, he came to Penbode on placement and decided this was the place to be a farm vet. Sam particularly enjoys the variety of production systems around the Devon and Cornwall border, each with its own unique set of challenges and opportunities.

What is your favourite type of visit?
I have a soft spot for a uterine prolapse but also enjoy a good calving or lambing. A sick cow visit, that recovers successfully is always a winner!

What do you enjoy most about Farm animal work?
Working with farmers to come up with practical solutions to problems on farm. Even small changes and a good bit of team work can improve farm productivity alongside animal welfare. I enjoy being outdoors and the unpredictable nature of farm work makes every day enjoyable!

What are you looking forward to developing throughout this coming year?
I'm looking forward to developing my calving and lambing armoury for tricky cases and getting to know more of our farmers and understand their systems in more detail.

What do you get up to in your spare time?
I'm a keen sportsman but more of a spectator these days! When I get a chance, I try to get to a Woking FC game and I can generally be found watching any available football or cricket on the telly. I'm hoping to get involved in some local sports teams in the coming year, alongside hiking the Cornish hills!





Holsworthy Market

A reminder that a member of **our team** will be at the Holsworthy Market every Wednesday **Between 10am -12pm**

We are pleased to be supporting the **Holsworthy Market Health Hub** where the market nurse will be availble between 8am-10am and 12pm - 4pm at the Penbode Hut





UNLOCK SUPERIOR HERD HEALTH WITH PENBODE DAIRY SERVICE PLANS



At Penbode, we're committed to delivering excellence and value to dairy farmers through our tailored service plans: Penbode Champion Dairy and Penbode Supreme Dairy. Designed to support your farm's productivity and animal welfare, our plans offer a comprehensive package of routine care, expert advice, and valuable savings—all for a manageable monthly fee.

Penbode Champion Dairy – Exceptional Value at £66 Ex VAT p/m

Our Champion Dairy package is a popular choice for farms seeking essential support and cost-effective solutions.

Here's what's included:

Free Routine Fertility Call Outs: No charge for call outs to all pre-booked fertility visits, ensuring regular herd checks without surprise costs.

Reduced Farm Medicine Prices: Make significant savings on essential medicines for your herd.

Reduced Hourly Rate: Enjoy 20% off the standard Penbode rate for routine herd visits

Digifarm Herd Health Analysis: Complimentary access to our exclusive, cutting-edge health monitoring system.

Annual Herd Health Review: Your routine vet will provide a thorough health and performance assessment, with actionable recommendations for improvement.

Antibiotic Reduction Report: We'll partner with you to optimise and reduce antibiotic usage on your farm.

Johne's Control Plan: Includes risk assessments, analysis of test results, and completion of your Johne's Plan and Action Johne's Declaration.

BVD Control Plan: Receive a bespoke control plan based on your farm's test results.

Milksure Top Up: We'll help you and your team complete the MilkSure top up process for safer milk assurance.



Penbode Supreme Dairy – Premium Support at £90 Ex VAT p/m

For those seeking an extra layer of expertise and service, our Supreme Dairy plan includes all Champion Dairy benefits, plus:

Quarterly Condition Scoring: VetTechs conduct regular, professional assessments of your herd's body condition.

Quarterly Locomotion Scoring: RoMS-qualified VetTechs provide expert mobility assessments to support cow welfare.

Annual Youngstock Audit: A dedicated VetTech visit to monitor and improve your youngstock's growth rates.

Annual Transition Cow Audit: Comprehensive review of transition cow management, including metabolic profiling (lab fees apply), to boost herd performance during crucial periods.

10 In-House Worm Egg Counts: Use throughout the year for proactive parasite control decisions.

Annual Veterinary Investment Report: A detailed breakdown of your annual veterinary spend, giving you transparent insight into your investment.

Both plans are designed to give you peace of mind, practical savings, and expert support—helping your dairy business thrive.

To find out more or to discuss which plan is right for you, contact the Penbode team today!



ALL THINGS LIVERS EVENING TALK

On October 13th we hosted an evening Beef and Flock Health Club meeting addressing the following question: Liver Fluke: to treat or not to treat?



Clients who attended learned about the life cycle of liver fluke and what fluke may look like on post-mortem exam. Paul Uglow from Norbrook led a discussion on liver fluke testing and treatments. While each farm will have different concerns based on their individual systems, this year's dry and hot summer has made it unlikely that we will see increased liver fluke issues in our stock. This is where testing can save both time and costs as cattle and sheep may not need to be gathered and given treatment unnecessarily.

Following this, clients were given the opportunity to see real condemned livers from an abattoir. This discussion highlighted what a normal liver should look like, how vets take tissue samples from deceased animals, and different reasons livers may be condemned. While we didn't see any fluke in our samples, it's important to remember that just because a liver has been condemned, that does not automatically mean it was because of fluke.



We want to give a big thank you to Norbrook for supporting this meeting, J&J Farmers and Jasper & Sons for the liver samples, and to everyone who attended!

FESTIVE SHEEP MEETING



Join us for a festive meeting of Christmas pasties, mince pies and mulled wine.

A chance for us to look back at 2026 and the things that have affected the sheep farming industry this year.

With a real focus on ram fertility and the data we've collected.

We'll also be looking at bluetongue and what we've learnt from this year and what we can do to protect our flocks going forward,

7pm start at Week St Mary Village Hall, Thursday 26th November

Free to attend - open to everyone.

If you would like to join, please call your local branch or email **jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk**. to book your space.



Join Farm Vet Andy on Thursday, 19th November 2026, at the Holsworthy Market for our next Mastering Meds Course.

Starting at 10:30am at Holsworthy Market £35pp exc VAT

One of the Red Tractor standards recommends that at least one member of staff has undertaken training on a veterinary-run medicines course and holds a certificate of competence.

As of February 2025, Red Tractor standards now state that this training must be completed every 5 years for the dairy sector.

What will be covered:

- Appropriate use of medicines
- Correct administration of medicines
- Correct medicine storage and record keeping

Attendees will receive a Certificate of Competence.

If you would like to attend, please contact your local branch to book your space or email jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk

Join us for a screening of Derek Vs Derek.

Free to attend for Penbode Farm Vet's Clients.

Food and drink will be available to purchase on the night, proceeds from sales will be donated to the FCN.

7:15pm, Friday 20th November at Bridgerule Village Hall



If you would like to join, please call your local branch or email jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk. to book your space.