



October 2026

Calf Talk Roundup

We had an excellent calf respiratory disease update on Monday 28th. It was great to see so many of you there contributing to the topic and tucking into some tasty food provided by Nicola and her team at the Pelcomb Inn.

Coming into autumn/winter, calf respiratory disease is on our minds! Vaccination is an important tool to have in our armoury, however without appropriate calf management, it's not a silver bullet!

• Housing

- Overstocking leads to increased moisture and increased infection pressure. Aim for 2.5m² per calf.

• Avoid mixing of age groups - All-in-all-out.

• Moisture, drainage and keeping warm

- Calf sheds should be dry places. Your knees should be dry after kneeling in the bedding!
- Calves should have a nice warm bedding area, deep enough to nest in!
- Be sure to detect and prevent draughts at calf level
- Be wary of jackets - these can harbour bacteria!

• Ventilation

- Removal of stale air, not recirculation!
- Pre-weaned calves don't produce a stack effect, so active ventilation is essential.
- Positive Pressure Tube Ventilation is a great option for calf sheds.



• Hygiene (Buckets, Teats, Pens)

- Good hygiene is key to ensure infection pressure is kept as low as possible.

• Feeding management

- Colostrum management is critical
- Feeding enough - week old calves will drink 6-12L/day if given the chance!

Reducing Dairy Cattle Lameness

Wednesday 28th October
Pelcomb Inn
10:00 - 12:00

SFS CPD



SFS CPD

- mobility scoring
- common causes of lameness

RSVP 07766995118

Lab results

Please make sure to
add our email address



to any forms for lab
tests (BVD tag &
test etc) so that we
receive the results
too!

SFS Biosecurity Assessment for Incoming Stock (BAIS)

An Incoming Animal Biosecurity
Risk Assessment must be
completed by **31
December 2026**.

You should assess and agree farm
specific measures to promote
biosecurity that may include:

- Isolation of incoming stock
- Prepurchase enquiries
- Prepurchase testing/
interventions
- Treatments/vaccinations on
arrival

farmlab@fentonvets.co.uk



**BVD bloods need to be done annually - get
in touch to book yours in**



More SFS CPD/animal health proficiency training to come soon:

- Beef Lameness
- Sheep Lameness
- Mastering Medicines

