

Newsletter

Fenton Vets

May 2026

Grass Staggers Alert

We are aware of recent cases of hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers) in grazing cattle and sheep. It is likely that, in some areas, the recent warmer weather has caused fast growing pastures that are high in potassium which inhibits magnesium (Mg) absorption from the rumen.

Clinical signs range from nervousness, high head carriage, ear twitching, muscle tremors, and lowered milk yield in the early stages, progressing to staggering, teeth grinding, collapse, paddling, convulsions, and rapid or sudden death. Hyperaesthesia and aggression in calved cows can also be seen. Treatment requires immediate veterinary attention. Prevention can include magnesium supplementation of water troughs, slow release intra-ruminal boluses, top-dressing of pasture or free access licks (combined with molasses to increase uptakes).



**BVD WORKSHOP
AND
LEGISLATION
UPDATE**

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY
12PM @ THE PELCOMB.

Contact reception to book
your place on 01437 762511

Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



**Re-register for access to
Farming Connect funding now!**



**FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO**

The Welsh Government is transitioning from the Government Gateway to GOV.UK One Login for all digital rural support services. This change will affect how you access Farming Connect. Please act now to make sure you can continue to access all available support!

Create your GOV.UK One Login account by visiting:
[Log in to Rural Payments Wales \(RPW\) Online | GOV.WALES](https://www.gov.uk/rural-payments-wales)
03456000813

Informal drop-in events for farmers to meet their Farming Connect Development Officer and re-register with the Farming Connect programme are in Pembrokeshire this month: Crymych RFC on 19th May and The Pavilion at Haverfordwest Showground on 29th May.

Fenton Vets will be delivering a range of funded animal health workshops throughout the year. Keep an eye on our website for upcoming events.



Tackle calf pneumonia with lung scanning

Quick Thorasic Ultrasound Scanning (qTUS) is now offered by Fenton vets to take on the challenge of calf pneumonia. Pneumonia remains a significant cause of ill health and mortality across the dairy and beef sectors and is an area of high antibiotic use. Lung scanning calves can pick up early signs of pneumonia 10 days before any obvious signs of disease can be seen, allowing early treatment to stop the disease progressing. Detection of lesions can also pinpoint the likely period of infection, enabling you to address any management issues that may be contributing to disease risk. qTUS is a quick and effective method of getting to grips with pneumonia - speak to us about using it to optimise calf health on your farm.

Synchronising Heifers

Do you want to get your heifer group served in an efficient way?

There are a variety of synchronisation programmes to help you to achieve your goal. The two main options are:

- 1) double prostaglandin synch**
- 2) PRID synch**

These programmes can be tailored to your requirements: do you want to observe heats and serve as seen or do you want to use fixed time AI? Speak to your routine vet about the right programme to use.

