



# WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

## Young Farmers Talk



At the start of October Poppy and Lauren hosted the North Elmham Young Farmers for a talk on Liver Fluke and Lameness. The group enjoyed a tour of the practice before hearing about the signs, risks and prevention methods for liver fluke in sheep and cattle and having the chance to dissect a healthy liver and compare to the visible signs of fluke.



They then discussed the causes of lameness in sheep, cattle and pigs, covering the anatomical similarities,

## Disbudding Calves

### *What is disbudding?*

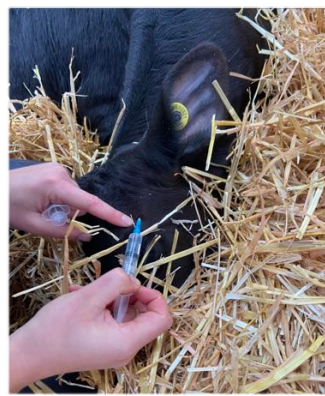
Disbudding is the process of preventing horn growth in cattle by the application of a hot iron (or caustic paste) to the horn bud to destroy the horn producing cells.

### *Why disbud calves?*

Preventing horn growth in cattle is an important consideration on farm, for both human and cattle safety. Polled cattle, born naturally hornless, have been bred in some varieties, but many breeds still require routine disbudding.

### *How is disbudding done?*

Disbudding can be achieved by the application of caustic paste or by hot iron (either electric or gas fuelled). The first step of disbudding is to properly restrain the calf. In the case of hot iron disbudding a corneal nerve block must then be placed in order to numb the area and prevent pain during the procedure.



*This image shows a corneal nerve block being placed using local anaesthetic to "block" the horn bud and surrounding area, and prevent pain.*



## Young Farmers Talk Continued

how to spot lameness early, foot trimming and treatment options.



Cadaver legs from sheep and pigs were used for dissections and demonstrations which the young farmers enjoyed getting involved with!

This was a great chance to talk to the next generation of farmers about prevention of common diseases and causes of production losses.



Please let us know if you would like to arrange a talk.

## What options are there ?

Calves can be sedated for hot iron disbudding, reducing the assistance needed to restrain calves and the stress caused during the procedure.

Metacam can be given at the time of disbudding to reduce ongoing inflammation and pain in the days following. This is something we would recommend, as the associated stress and pain can reduce growth rates.

*Sedated calves awaiting corneal nerve blocks before disbudding*



*Electric hot iron being used for disbudding*

*A calf following disbudding. The removed bud has been sprayed with terramycin spray*

