

Patron HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

## **Bicycling calves in Dairy Event show ring**

Following the judging at this year's Dairy Event & Livestock Show the show ring will be host to two plastic calves, at 3.30pm on Wednesday. The arrival of the calves marks the completion of their journey on the XLVets charity bike ride 2009. The calves complete with XLVet cyclists will be greeted in the show ring by the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), one of the charities for which the XLVets bike ride is raising money.

RABI president Lord Plumb, who plans to be on hand to welcome the calves and their minders in to the ring, said: "This is a great effort by XLVets staff across the country which has raised considerable awareness, as well as much needed funds, for two worthy charities. They are to be congratulated on the originality of the ride and thanked for giving their time and effort to support those in need in the farming industry."

Throughout August and September the 42 XLVet member practices cycled the length of the country between practices raising money for two farming charities, RABI and Farm Africa, on their way. The challenge set to the group was to get the two plastic calves from their start destinations; one at XLVets Northvet practice in Orkney and the other at XLVets Rosevean practice in Penzance, to the XLVets stand at this year's show.

The event heralds the start of the XLVets autumn calf campaign, which focuses on promoting good calf husbandry. Following on from the journey of the two XLVet calves, a series of autumn calf health meetings will take place across the UK. The campaign will help raise awareness with farmers of the positive contribution that proactive veterinary involvement can make to the health of calves – the future of the herd.

For full details of the journey of the cyclists and calves visit the XLVets website [www.xlvets.co.uk](http://www.xlvets.co.uk).

Ends

**The royal agricultural charity providing financial support to the farming community past, present and future**

**President: The Lord Plumb DL, Chairman: HAC Densham CBE**

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Notes for editors

For further information contact the XLVets office on (01228) 711788, or e-mail [admin@xlvets.co.uk](mailto:admin@xlvets.co.uk).

## Additional information:

As a nationwide group XLVet members work together, sharing experience, knowledge and skills in order to define and deliver the highest standards of veterinary practice, animal health and productivity. They strive to be at the heart of their farm client's business; as the primary source of highly valued on-farm advice and the central co-ordinating consultant for other farm services.

Information and details of RABI activities are available on its website - [www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk)  
or from: Nicholas Bond, RABI Press Officer, 01865 724931 (RABI office), 01789 721311 (home), 07748 927424 (mobile)