

# Fortress campaign gets royal approval

**XLVETS has been presented with the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF) Prince Philip Award Certificate of Merit by His Royal Highness at Buckingham Palace.**

The honour was made to the group for research and development in the field of dairy farming at the Livestock Event 2014. Stuart Gough of Calweton Veterinary Group, a practice member of XLVets, said: "We feel honoured and privileged to win this award for our exhibit featuring 'Make your farm your fortress', a campaign designed to put biosecurity at the top of farmers' to-do lists."

"The exhibit demonstrated in detail the campaign's first aspect – BVD, which is present in more than

80 per cent of both dairy and beef herds. It triggers general immunosuppression and while animals can be symptom-free, it has a profound impact on health and productivity.

"White BVD-check ear tags can be applied to individual animals, harvesting tissue for virus testing. All those animals testing negative are introduced to a central database – a facility that can be accessed by farmers, auctioneers and processors alike."

The overall RABDF Prince Philip Award for the most practical, relevant and best technical exhibit at the event went to leading agriculture company, Genus ABS.

RABDF president David Leaver said: "The RABDF Prince Philip Award is for innovations in the field of dairy farming and the industry benefits greatly from such research and development by supply companies like Genus ABS and XLVets. The new products developed by these companies clearly have the potential to increase



**Prince Philip presents the Certificate of Merit to Stuart Gough and Dan Humphries from XLVets.**

the productivity of dairy farming in the UK and to improve our competitiveness in the global marketplace."