

Q CASE STUDY

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A near miss on farm could have resulted in an Orkney farmer losing his sight

LENAHOWE’S Paul Ross had gone to treat a calf with an antibiotic, and just as he went to inject it, the calf moved, causing the syringe to go into Paul’s eye.

The 49-year-old who is a past NFU Scotland Regional Chairman for Orkney, told the *Scottish Farming Leader* about the accident, which could so easily have led to lasting damage.

Paul explained: “While feeding the cows I noticed a calf looking a bit dull and decided to treat with an antibiotic. It was lying it down so I approached it quietly, injecting it.

“Just when I was going to put the needle in the calf moved unexpectedly, the syringe came out of my hand and the needle penetrated my eyeball. I was then aware of blood running down

my face and realised I needed medical help.”

Paul and his wife Fiona made it to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness around 12 hours after the incident. He was taken to theatre to investigate the depth of the damage.

“Thankfully, they discovered that my eye was undamaged,” explained Paul. “I’d had vision impairment for a short period of time after the incident, and it was more sensitive to light, but thankfully it returned to normal not long afterwards.

“This was a totally unexpected accident and could easily have been a lot worse. The only precaution I could have taken was wearing goggles, but I couldn’t have foreseen this happening.” ♦

