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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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Very dry weather has continued with only a couple of light showers around the district, if you were lucky. It amazes me how dairy farmers are so good at producing grass when conditions are desperate for most.

And the winner of the 2017 mandarin competition, in the toughest year to date, despite a pretty dry specimen of a desperate late entry from Lorne, is Kimbriki's finest mandarin and Hereford breeder, Robert Allan, who will be rewarded with a pearl perch of my choice ! Thanks to

all the runners up, and those whose mandas I tasted without permission !

In the latest vet journal there's an article on conception rates of sexed and normal semen placed in the cervix vs placed up the horn with the soon to ovulate follicle. This was done to investigate whether sexed semen pregnancy rates were improved by doing this. They found no difference whether sexed or non-sexed semen was used. They also found sexed semen varied between 39% and 77% of the pregnancy rate of non-sexed semen.

The research for this paper was in heifers and it was a fixed time AI programme. Body weight - 310-370 kg, a weight of 55% of predicted mature weight - was very important for success, and surprisingly animals in this range had a better pregnancy rate than those heavier than 370 kg.

The best conception rate of the sexed semen bulls was 35%, the worst 18%, a huge range, compared to 41-45 % for non-sexed semen.

The heifers had their follicles measured, but the better predictor of pregnancy is whether they had had a good heat at time of AI. Fixed time AI in sexed semen is often poor compared to insemination after oestrus.

I saw a neat new gizmo called Moocall the other day, that is clipped to the cow's tail. This sends a warning to your phone when the cow starts calving, based on tail twitching and behaviour. It sends warnings, it has a drop off alarm with GPS so you can find it, is charged by USB and updates

when charging. You put it on for 4 days, then half a day off for tail blood circulation and to recharge. I can see its use in valuable ET calves as it is expensive to buy and there is a yearly fee. However, you must have good mobile phone reception, which rules out lots of our area ! And I'm not sure how flies will affect it.

Cattle Diseases of the Month  
 calvings, including a torn uterus  
 eye cancers  
 prolapses, vaginal and uterine  
 bloat  
 Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis  
 Theileria  
 down cows  
 3rd toe removal

And in the Horses.....

The stud season is the main thing this month and the hot, dry weather here and in the Hunter is affecting pregnancy rates.

We have had a few foalings, and one case of retained membranes that required removal and flushing to prevent metritis and laminitis. Membranes can be hard to inspect after they've been trodden on and torn, and it's usually the tip of the non pregnant horn, i.e. the long skinny one, that is retained.

When it does finally rain there will be an abundance of paralysis ticks. Foals under about 100 kg are susceptible and can have dog tick collars, such as Kiltix, or Easy dose/Arrest applied, or various sprays.

### Horse Diseases of the month

Colic  
 eye ulcers  
 scoping a bleeding nose  
 traumatically ruptured eye  
 choke  
 Granulosa Cell Tumour - this is an ovarian tumour that makes mares act more like stallions, and is diagnosed by ultrasound scan by its distinctive appearance, and a blood test. After removal the mare's behaviour returns to normal and they can conceive.

Hope by the time you receive this and/or your bill it has rained, and note there was no mention of biosecurity in this month's newsletter.

<b>RUN DATES FOR OCTOBER</b>	
LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 5TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S Is.....	TUES 10TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 12TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 17TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 19TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 24TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 26TH