
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

JULY NEWSLETTER

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This year's mandarin competition has started with Moto mandas providing a starting baseline that all others have to beat. A special prize this year of some vacuum packed reef fish fillets from my recent trip north to Gladstone, Qld. Unless I eat them first.

Just over the ranges drought has made it very hard for people and their stock. We have been very lucky, especially on the coast. The conditions out west are an example of how demand seriously affects grain and cattle prices over here. On top of poor milk prices things are tough. However,

bull sales are coming up and there will be opportunities to buy very good quality bulls at good prices.

High grain prices have seen me preaching against fixed amount feeding, because it doesn't make sense to be feeding stale cows grain, especially at \$500/tonne... Unless you have no dry cow feed. On average, 1 kg grain/concentrate produces two litres of milk in fresh cows, one litre in stale cows, 1.4 litres overall. One of the premises is that grain makes up 50% of the feed costs, so double the grain price and compare that to the milk return. 45 c/kg grain, plus 45 c pasture, is 90 c cost to produce 90c of milk in a fresh cow.

But of course the increase in grain price is not paralleled by an increase in pasture cost. So producing more quality pasture at this time of year should be the most profitable strategy. And with spring milk prices pasture has to be even more important.

One valid argument for grain feeding is there is no input cost apart from pulling the handle. And grain feeding, unlike pasture feeding, is easy to quantify its cost. There's no labour, fuel, seed, machinery, fertiliser, or weather to take into account as with pasture.

Pasture, however, once established and with rain like we've had, is cheap and keeps on giving. It's very hard to know how cheap as it can be measured in different ways, such as cost per kg DM/ha, or what silage costs ! Let's say \$150 per tonne, is so much cheaper than grain, even at double this, and while urea is relatively

cheap it seems pasture is the answer to profitability. Definitely not grain.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings, including foetotomies, yuck
eye cancers
seminal vesiculitis in bulls
corkscrew penis in a young bull, had been seen to serve normally, then observed corkscrewing. Culled.

And in the Horses.....

Foalings are about to start. If you are in a tick area have dog tick collars on hand from day 1, such as Kiltix.

There are many situations where the mare may not be able to provide quality colostrum. Frozen colostrum is always good to have as a back up. We can then do an IgG test to see if the foal has received its immunoglobulins before we do a transfusion.

Some foals, often big warmblood or thoroughbreds, are born with contracted tendons. These can be successfully treated within the first 7 days.

As far as the mares go, foaling problems and tears, and then retained membranes are the main things to be aware of in the immediate time after birth. Just call us for advice if you are unsure of what is normal.

In a recent research paper it was found that obese mares' foals had more insulin resistance at 6 months of age, and more OCD (a bone disorder) at 12 months of age.

Horse Diseases of the Month

Cuts
colics
foaling, foal needed plasma transfusion
foot abscess
fungal skin infection

We have had a great response in producing accounts by email, with over half the accounts now being sent electronically. We will try to do this with the newsletters, which are also now on the website.

RUN DATES FOR JULY	
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