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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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We have been very lucky with the rain, at least those farmers close to the coast. Unfortunately we are still seeing in beef cattle some pregnancy toxemia cows and herds that are welfare cases.

On a positive note recent local stud bull and heifer sales have been very strong despite the conditions across the state. Quality will always sell well.

As soon as I wrote that I thought of the dairy industry where a premium quality product is being produced and its production not rewarded. The difference with the bull sales being a processor and supermarket between the producer and

consumer. I believe consumers are happy to pay more for quality, especially when it's locally produced, but I'm equally sure that any price increase will not be passed wholly on to the producer. Come the Revolution, when I am President for Life, things will change.....

The Mandarin competition winner will be announced next month.

The Non Return Rate is the rate at which cows that do not come back into season, or are not seen in season after service, are assumed to be pregnant. In farms with good heat detection this will be 10-15% above the true pregnancy rate. The activity collars, which a number of farmers are now using, should reduce the NRR to be closer to the pregnancy rate.

In the ideal world every AI'd cow that doesn't come back on will be pregnant. The 15% empty should be minimised with the collars. So far it seems that total reliance on the collars/computer doesn't reduce this percentage, I think due to the variation in cow oestrus behaviour. Some cows are also served when already in calf, so their behaviour tricks the collar at times into thinking they are in season. Some cows in season will show very little oestrus behaviour at all and are missed. Observation is still needed to reduce the NRR.

Several cases of Lepto in people have been diagnosed on the north coast recently. However, they were not of the cow variety. It does remind us though to vaccinate with 7 in 1, at least for OH & S reasons.

## Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings

eye cancers

down cows, including some early to mid

lactation milk fevers

lamenesses

hip dislocation

And in the Horses.....

The stud season is underway with foaling and follicle testing.

Studs that do Walk ons mostly require clitoral and uterine swabs. These must be taken in the first 3 days of oestrus to allow time for the lab to culture them and the results to come back prior to service. Some studs have a no growth policy, so a swab that grows a contaminant will stop the mare from being served. This is a source of endless frustration to mare owners and vets.

This week we scanned and swabbed a mare for a walk on service and two bacterial species that have no relevance to mare or stallion fertility were cultured. The mare was on her way to a big stud in the Hunter Valley, who when I called them to let them know conferred with their vet and stud master and said it was fine. This commonsense approach is not common !

Wind sucking, weaving, fence walking, crib biting and tongue sucking are vices called stereotypies. This last one is one I'd never seen until this month. All of them are incurable unless the environment is

changed, and result in weight loss and sometimes colic.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts and Colics, a couple very serious

eye ulcer

lamenesses

two horses that tore their hooves back from the sole to the coronet

We are going to allow the newsletter to be used by clients who want to advertise things, such as bull and heifer sales. I can't see why embryos, semen, horses, tractors etc can't also be given some space.

### **RUN DATES FOR SEPTEMBER**

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 6TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 11TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 13TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 18TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 20TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 25TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 27TH