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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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As I write this newsletter to start the year our cricketers have got India just where we want them, showing us how to bat.

We had a very wild end to the year with storms causing havoc, bringing trees and wires down, and blowing roofs off. I needed a generator to keep a freezer full of fish frozen. A couple of cows were crushed, one electrocuted, some horses were injured and there were power outages that prevented milking, resulting in clinical and subclinical mastitis.

Don had two calvings in two days where deformed calves were delivered, one beef and one dairy. We see deformed calves more at this time of year, presumably because of insect activity in late summer. Akabane and 3 Day are both carried by insects and can cause foetal abnormalities if the heifer or cow is in the first third of pregnancy when infected.

In the recent cattle vets journal there is a paper that looked at milk production during hot weather on a single farm, across 588 cows on a farm near Warrnambool. Factors such as black and white colour percentage, temperature humidity index, days in milk, age and time of milking were examined. Overall cows produced 3.7 l more at morning milking, each year of age increased volume by 0.29 l, days in milk had a negative 0.01l effect, and each increase in the THI had a reduction in milk production of 0.43 litres, 3 days later. And coat colour surprisingly had no effect at all.

Heat stress can occur as low as 25 degC, if the humidity is high enough. For example, cows are severely stressed at 25 deg with 100% relative humidity, or 30 deg with 50%. With current day time temperatures of say 33 deg cows get stressed at as low as 25% humidity. It was interesting to see the decrease in production lags three days after jumps in the THI. This dairy did use sprinklers on the cows while on the yard.

The effects on reproduction of heat stress are seen every summer with per cycle conception rates sometimes down to 25%. It is worthwhile joining more heifers to

make up for the shortfall in calving cows later in the year. Or, don't mate at all at this time of year, use cheap semen or switch to batch calving...

#### Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings  
eye cancers  
down cows  
prolapses, vaginal and uterine

And in the Horses.....

The stud season is mostly over. We had good AI and pregnancy rates early, but now with the hot weather results have not been as good, often due to poor semen quality . Twins have been problematic as usual, especially when in the same uterine horn.

Mostly studs demand swabs to be done for walk on mares. Farm biosecurity is becoming more important and some are also demanding strangles and herpes vaccination, and health or vaccination certificates for Hendra. Strangles has occurred in NSW and Vic recently and can be serious when unvaccinated mares are exposed.

Summer Sores are skin lesions caused by an insect called Habronema. These flies lay eggs in skin cuts, the corner of eyes and on sheaths. Anywhere with a bit of moisture. Repeated treatments with 'mectin based worm pastes will fix it.

Horse diseases of the month  
Cuts and Colics  
lamenesses  
sarcoïd  
foot abscesses  
founder  
tetanus - my third case ever, in a 2 yo unvaccinated horse that trod on an old cuphead bolt that had held up a rail. A week later she was having trouble eating and stiff legs.

Sadly at the end of this month Bree will be leaving us to continue her career in horse-only vet practice. She has been a real asset to us, particularly with her horse work, and we wish her all the best.

<b>RUN DATES FOR JANUARY</b>	
<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 3RD</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 8TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 10TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 15TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 17TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 22ND</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 24TH</b>

