
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

MAY NEWSLETTER

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Most areas have now had rain, but some have frustratingly still missed out. Lots of beef cows have been preg tested this month prior to winter. Overall, spring joining not surprisingly had more empties than usual this year.

This month we hosted Amy Bird, a vet student from Sydney, who researched the different fixed time AI methods in dairy, beef, heifers and cows (without using Bomerol, an oestrogen, which you can't use in dairy cows or EU compliant beef herds). There are lots of different methods, with variable success. The following is probably the simplest.

Day 0 : GnRH + CIDR

Day 7 : CIDR out and Pg

Heifers AI and GnRH 52-56 hrs later

Cows AI and GnRH 60-66 hrs later

There are variations on this, such as two Pg injections and the timing of the GnRH, but this should result in over 60% pregnancy rate.

We had an interesting case of what we think is perennial rye grass staggers this month. Rye grass staggers occurs when cattle eat the rye grass down low, where the fungal endophyte toxin accumulates in the rye grass. In this case it was self sown perennial rye. There is little toxin in the leaf compared to the base. The animal had muscle tremors and when forced to move became uncoordinated. Blood levels of magnesium were normal, and with no response to a 4 in 1 bag this ruled out grass tetany. Other possibilities were paspalum toxicity, lead poisoning, urea toxicity, or some other weird plant endophyte toxicity.

This animal improved when fed hay and long grass over several days and is now back to normal. There was other grass available but this bull chose to eat the rye almost exclusively. I suppose this is because of its high protein and palatability, but maybe infected rye tastes better.

Cattle Diseases of the Month
buffalo fly - another mystery is why some cattle get covered with them and others not.
calvings
eye cancers
prolapses

lame cows
grain poisoning
worms

Dingo Bend Angus at Bobin have 1 , 2 yo and 3, 23mth old Angus bulls for sale. Semen tested, grass fed entire lives and ready for work. And 5 Angus steers 10-11 mths old, av 362 kg for sale. More details can be found at www.dingobendangus.com.au or call Ross or Elissa on 65505035

And in the Horses.....

This month we had two cases of Ross River Fever in horses. Both were reluctant to move, painful joints and had a short stepping gait. One has responded well to antiinflammatories, the other hasn't, but should get better over the next few weeks.

Setaria is a grass that is low in calcium and contains oxalates, that bind calcium. Its persistence in drought is its only advantage. It is an awful feed for horses, particularly pregnant mares, and not much better for cattle. Big head and fractured legs can occur when horses are grazed on setaria if calcium and phosphorus are not supplemented. Unfortunately this month we had a pregnant mare break her leg, and she may have had pelvic fractures as well.

Calcium can be supplemented by additives, such as dolomite, or lucerne hay and mineral blocks.

Horse diseases of the month
Cuts and Colics
lamenesses
foot abscesses
sarcoids
corneal ulcer
bone cancer in the radius of a 26yo arab

RUN DATES FOR MAY

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 2ND
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 7TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 9TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 14TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 16TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 21ST
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 23RD