
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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Firstly, to mandarins. This season has played havoc with mandarin quality. However, there are good ones around, that qualify as home grown even if taken off a different property's tree i.e. if you can reach it, it qualifies. This is pertinent to an entry from Gloucester and Oxley Island. A >100 year old tree on Jones Island will be hard to beat this year though .

Local bull sales have been strong, with excellent prices and clearances. Congratulations to those producers in tough conditions.

The latest cattle vets journal has a great paper on early embryonic loss in Australian pasture based dairy cows and its causes.

Relationships were examined between age, breed, production, milk composition, body condition score, EBV for fertility, days calved, if it was synchronised AI, and clinical mastitis, and pregnancy loss.

1,149 pregnancies were examined in four herds, and diagnosis was done by ultrasound at 35 days, then 2 months later, then just before drying off at around 6 months pregnant.

In total, **7.8 %** of pregnancies were lost between 35 and 160 days after conception.

With regards to calving to conception interval, the losses were evenly spread, with 10% in cows that conceived in the first 60 days of lactation, then 7% in the next 60 and 8.6% in cows that conceived after 120 days.

Clinical mastitis, low litres and high (>30) litres were the risk factors for pregnancy loss.

Cows with clinical mastitis had a **2.7** fold greater chance of pregnancy loss.

Low litres and loss was due to body condition, illness etc. The cause of high litres and loss is uncertain. It may be due to increased metabolic and dietary requirements, or genetics.

The empty cows also told a story. After the first AI, 50-61% of cows did not return to service in the next 24 days. Some of these cows were likely pregnant but lost

the pregnancy before the first preg test was done.

Most of the pregnancy losses occurred before 40 days pregnant, irrespective of production or mastitis.

We have cultured a lot of strep dysgalactiae this month, which is both treatable and curable ! It is a bacteria that is always thought of as environmental, but can also be found in the mouth, udder and vagina, so can be spread from cow to cow.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

- calvings
- eye cancers
- lame cows
- prolapses, uterine and vaginal

And in the Horses.....

The horse's birthday came and went, so it must be the start of the foaling and stud season.

We have had one foaling where the foal needed stomach tubing with colostrum to get it going. Foals that are premature often need help at first, for strength and immunoglobulin absorption.

Although the focus is on the foal, don't forget the mare - retained membranes are the main post foaling risk. They must be passed, preferably within 12 hours. Call us if you have problems or questions.

If you are planning to send a mare to a stud in the Hunter Valley check with them now for their policy on Hendra and Herpes vaccination.

Horse diseases of the month

- Cuts and Colics
- lamenesses
- foot abscesses
- tooth root abscess
- choke, again

We have had two cases this month where Hendra exclusions were done, one in an unvaccinated horse and one where the horse only received two vaccinations, the last 5 years ago. In both cases the clients criticised us for doing so. We were trusted enough to see the sick horse in the first place, but then had to put up with criticism for taking precautions and testing, for everyone's benefit. Mmmm, and don't start me on Facebook....

RUN DATES FOR AUGUST

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 1ST
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 6TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 8TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 13TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 15TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 20TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 22ND

