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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## JUNE NEWSLETTER

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This week we have gone back to full staffing with all the usual social distancing. We may also have conquered our phone problems. This goes back a few weeks when we changed telephone providers and what should have been a smooth transition has been the opposite. However, that's what swear words are for.

Winter heralds the start of the mandarin competition, and I picked one off a Dumaresq Island tree today. Organic, tight skin, and no annoying pith. A bit early for sweetness but promising signs. A clear leader. I wonder if there could be a research grant in correlating mandarin quality with future rainfall. Maybe when I retire.

We have one dairy client who vaccinates their whole herd once and heifers older than 6 months twice, every year, for 3 Day sickness. This year they had no cases and no drop in production. Let's do the numbers on an imaginary 100 cow herd averaging 25 l/d at 50 c/l, with 40 heifers. Vaccine cost would be \$2,058.30, plus time to vaccinate. If this herd gets 3 Day like this year, conservatively lets say 10% reduction in milk for 2 months (\$7500), 2 deaths (\$3000), drugs to treat down cows (\$300), plus mastitis, increased SCC, dry offs, abortions and reproductive losses, plus all the time spent on down cows and heifers. About \$12,000 at least. So if you vaccinate every year for almost 6 years it will cost this herd the same as this year did. Mostly we get a little 3 Day every year or three and it is not as severe as this year. If we had a bad year every three it will double the cost. Any way you look at it, only one dead cow plus her production costs more than the vaccine.

Last month Vibrio has been in the spotlight because we have had a few positives in beef cows. In previous newsletters I have mentioned how individual tests have sensitivity and specificity, that measure false positives and false negatives and define the test's accuracy. The vibrio test for females is very sensitive, possibly too sensitive ! It will detect exposure to vibrio for a year, possibly up to two years. And, if the cow has been exposed to other species of campylobacter, the test may crossreact and produce a mild positive result. In bulls we have to rely on bacterial culture, and it's

a really hard bug to grow. So not a good test. But, a DNA test is being developed which will be very accurate and very 21st century. So in my working life we've gone from old fashioned culture, to an antibody test, then soon a DNA test.

Interpreting results is difficult. Bottom line is you still have to vaccinate bulls twice, the second shot more than four weeks prior to joining, and keep bulls and cows in their own paddocks.

#### Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings  
prolapses , vaginal and uterine  
eye cancers  
lame cows

And in the Horses.....

There was a case of Hendra at Murwillumbah last week. A long way north of us but a reminder to be vigilant and be careful if you have a sick horse. Although the risk is small the consequences are serious for horse and human alike. Symptoms include difficulty breathing and a wobbly gait. Try to have feed and water points away from flowering and fruiting trees that bats feed on.

Clients have asked about the suitability of silage for horses. Horses are sensitive to fungus, and silage that cattle will eat can be toxic to horses, so it is best avoided. Rye grass is ok but you have to be careful of

founder. Chaff, pellets, minerals and some oil are a good winter supplement.

#### Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics  
eye ulcer  
foot abscesses, seedy toe  
weanling with fractured withers  
laminitis  
sarcoïd

For accounts and correspondence we now prefer [tvhreception@gmail.com](mailto:tvhreception@gmail.com), not the old tarvet address.

### **RUN DATES FOR JUNE**

<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 4TH</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 9TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 11TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 16TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 18TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 23RD</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 25TH</b>

