
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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APRIL NEWSLETTER

It's odd to be hoping for some rain, but I've been slashing paddocks that are coated in fine silt and now need a wash badly. Me, tractor and grass.

The flood has really bashed farms on Mondrook, Taree Estate, Dumaresq Is, Oxley and Mitchell's Is, Jones Is, Moto, Harrington Rd and Mambo. Stock losses are the most upsetting, but fences torn down, water through houses and machinery and infrastructure losses are also very costly and stressful. However, drive 10k away and paddocks are green and the good season continues.

We have received great support from some animal health companies with antibiotics etc for affected farmers. Abbey Animal Health in particular, despite their rep being surrounded by floodwater herself, have been most helpful. The LLS have funded flood visits and pathology (as well as being organisers for feed relief, cattle ID, destruction and disposal, damage assessments - great job) and Symbion, who we get to do our milk samples for culture and sensitivity, are doing this at half price.

Environmental mastitis and lame cows have been the main flood related problems.

A question asked by several farmers is how about treating some of these mastitic cows with Dry Cow and drying them off if they have no other option ? These are cows that didn't get milked for up to two days and now have mastitis. The problem with this approach is that even if their production has crashed during the flood event they are not having the affected quarter(s) milked out and being treated with the usual LC intramammary. On the other hand, the DC is long acting and their production is now less than normal drying off levels. And these are desperate times ! DC doesn't always work on environmental bacteria but it should work on most. I wouldn't use teat sealant if they have high SCCs, and I would expect mastitis and high SCCs when they calve.

The lameness is caused by water softening hooves and skin, gravel and bacteria. Dry weather, smooth tracks, Alamyacin spray and antibiotics will do the trick !

Cattle Diseases of the Month
Akabane positive cow that aborted
calvings
prolapses
eye cancers
lame cows
Theileria
scouring calves

And in the Horses.....

Hoof and skin problems, cuts and punctures have been the main flood related problems. Rain scald, greasy heel, swollen legs and fungal skin infections have been common.

Apart from that, this month the main thing has been laminitis. Unfortunately two that were euthanased had pedal bone rotation that was beyond corrective farriery and antiinflammatories. One was due to being chronically overweight for years.

Previcox (firocoxib) is now available in a registered horse tablet, so we are unable to dispense the dog tablets. This is a relatively new anti-inflammatory drug in horses, so we now have this and phenylbutazone and meloxicam.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts
Colics
foot abscesses
laminitis, two chronic cases euthanased
eye ulcer
rain scald

swamp cancer
fractured pastern

Strange case of the month was a horse we were called to see for an eye ulcer, but had acute facial paralysis. The ulcer was caused by having no sensation to the eye. Multiple nerves were involved, and 10 days later we euthanised him when he began to have neurological abnormalities. He was a grey so a melanoma was the most likely cause.

RUN DATES FOR APRIL

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

