
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

This newsletter comes to you from Hat Head, land of the nor' easters for the last week. And very few fish.

During last month one farmer had two cows abort in late gestation. As he knew there are lots of foxes around his place we tested their blood for neosporosis, and also for Akabane, because it's the right time of year, and we had another couple of abortions last month. Both foetuses looked normal. Results were negative for neospora, but positive for Akabane in both cows. Classic Akabane calves have domed

heads and sometimes bent and malformed legs, but not these.

In the last month most mastitis samples have been environmental streps, common in warm, wet weather. However, one of our dairy farmers recently had a mastitis outbreak and some very high bulk somatic cell counts, so had a vat milk PCR test done. This revealed Strep agalactia, and no other bacteria, which was some consolation. Strep ag is characterised by its highly infectious nature, rapid spread and high cell counts. However, it is treatable and curable with a lot of effort.

What is interesting about this case was that recently they had bought cows from two separate herds. All good in hind sight, but a prepurchase vat test, to exclude strep ag, would have been great.

Individual cell counts are now being done to identify subclinically infected cows, and to see how many bought in cows are infected. Then cows will be grouped for drying off, treatment and to be culled.

We had a most unusual case of calf diphtheria in a beef calf. They have their mouth and larynx infected by a bacteria common in faeces, and presumably gets into the oral tissues by abrasive grasses. This farm has a lot of setaria but I'd be surprised if a young calf would graze on it. The calf had difficulty breathing, and swollen, infected cheeks. It is sensitive to antibiotics but can be fatal.

Cattle Diseases of the Month
calvings, including a twisted uterus

prolapses
 eye cancers
 lame cows
 3rd toe in a bull
 Akabane
 calf diphtheria
 blood warts
 Strep Ag mastitis
 Buffalo fly spotted, but not as bad as last year

And in the Horses.....

This time of year we see lots of skin conditions. Qld itch is common in horses bred outside of the coastal strip. It is an insect bite hypersensitivity and hard to treat effectively. Insect repellants such as Swat and sometimes cortisone can be used. Rain scald is a bacterial condition of the skin mainly of the horse's back. Greasy heel can be a mix of fungal and bacterial causes. Dermatophytosis is a fungal condition, often on the face.

Some of these conditions are diagnosed by their appearance, and for others we take some hair and a scrape, and stain it and/or culture it. They are all treatable and are often self limiting, and heal when the conditions change.

We have also seen more foot abscesses than usual. Any break in the hoof wall, such as seedy toe, or nail holes, can provide an entry point for bacteria to form an abscess. These are very painful, so much so they are often mistaken for a broken leg. Mostly they burst above the coronet, but it is better if they are drained through the sole to avoid

hoof wall defects. Sometimes we'll poultice the hoof or coronet and give them antiinflammatories. We rarely treat them with antibiotics.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts
 Colics
 foot abscesses
 laminitis
 Big Head
 eye ulcer
 hair loss from fungus
 shin soreness
 rain scald

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

