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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## JUNE NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to winter, and I hope your rye grass is growing faster than mine !

The Hunter LLS are generously funding, on a first-in basis while the money lasts, milk vat testing for pestivirus antibody and a pcr test. The sample has to have some of the preservative blue dye in it that you are familiar with from herd recording. If you haven't got one, the sample jars can be picked up from the clinic or Dillon Rural. There is a specific submission form that we must use for the sample to be eligible. The sample must be taken from a mixed vat sample to avoid protein layering that can affect test accuracy, then sent chilled.

This comes on the heels of two of our farmers testing positive milk vat pcr for pestivirus after having cows return that were preg tested positive. Both farms do monthly preg testing and have good record keeping. The positive pcr result means that there is one or more persistently infected (PI) cows in the herd, busy shedding virus. The virus can cause a bit of ill-thrift, reduced production, diarrhoea, sometimes abortion and resorption. If uninfected cows are exposed to the virus and happen to be early pregnant the foetus can be born PI, and the cycle of infection continues.

If a herd is pcr positive it is very hard to identify the cow, so we live with it, and plan to vaccinate all pre-mating heifers twice.

It will be interesting to see how many herds come up positive to see if it can be correlated with repro problems. If it is very prevalent we will start recommending heifer vaccination.

It is free, and I encourage you to get it done.

One herd this month has had an outbreak of strep. ag. mastitis after buying in infected cows. Their SCC was elevated to an extent that it was decided to blitz treat the herd. This involved preg testing all cows and drying off, with dry cow, all cows greater than 6 months pregnant. All other herd cows were treated with Mamyzin and the milk dumped. This is done to bring the SCC down as fast as possible and has been a very expensive exercise.

LLS vet Lyndell Stone has investigated some dairy calf deaths and amongst a few problems lung worm was discovered. I can't remember seeing lung worm in calves

up here and I suppose the clinical disease must have been influenced by the wet weather. More important is calf hygiene, rotating paddocks and wormers as prevention, because we do get wet weather !

#### Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings, a couple in really overfat cows  
prolapses  
eye cancers  
ruptured eye from pinkeye  
hernias  
lame cows, one with an infected joint  
3rd toe  
theileria and calf pneumonia  
scrotal infection

And in the Horses.....

This month we did a lot of geldings, including a donkey, one with a retained testis and a pony with a testicular tumour. We had two eye removals, in different horses, after an ulcer that ruptured and an injury. We also had a couple of wounds to lower limbs that became seriously infected.

Winter is a good time to worm paste horses, especially weanlings, while worm numbers are low. If you are unsure if it is necessary you can drop a faecal sample in and we can mix it up and look for worm eggs.

Hendra virus has also been more prevalent in winter, fortunately not in our immediate area. Check your horse's vaccination status.

#### Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics  
foot abscesses  
cellulitis  
chronic laminitis  
eye ulcers  
osteomyelitis in pastern  
testicular tumour, about 3 times the normal size

### **RUN DATES FOR JUNE**

<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 3RD</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 8TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 10TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 15TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 15TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 20TH</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 22ND</b>

