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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## MARCH NEWSLETTER

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To avoid calvings at Christmas, put the AI gun away between March the 12th and April 1st. Most important.

The wet weather has continued and coupled with the amount of grass and lower stock numbers, planting will be a challenge this season.

This month, at the dairy farmer's request, we had his vat milk tested for pestivirus. They have had cows resorb/ abort after being preg tested in calf, and it may have been normal numbers, but maybe not. So we did an antibody test that confirmed pesti is in the herd at a normal level. This is not surprising as it is endemic

v bon the coast. We also had a PCR test done, which tests for actual virus in the milk. This was positive, so we know they have at least one PI (persistently infected) cow in the herd. This is likely a poor doing heifer that was infected while in her mother's uterus, who was also most likely a heifer. Blood samples can be taken from likely candidates, but she will be hard to identify. However, she probably has infected the few cows that didn't already have antibodies.

For a PI cow to exist her mother was infected for the first time while early pregnant. One way to remove this possibility from occurring is to vaccinate all yearling replacements, so they have immunity when put into calf, and will get natural exposure there after. Or, as mentioned last month, run a PI with the pre-mating heifers.

It is hard to know if this cow has caused or contributed to the resorptions and abortions. We have another herd that is going to start vaccinating heifers. In that herd the main problem has been diarrhoea, but who knows if there is an underlying repro problem. So we will monitor their progress but it is something that is very hard to measure on the coast, where pestivirus is endemic.

Until now we have only recommended pestigard for ET recipis and valuable animals from inland areas, but this may change. If you have concerns drop in a sterile vat milk sample and it can be tested.

We had two cases of cryptosporidia in calves this month. It's always hard to pin

the source down as the bug lives in water, and calves are mostly drinking milk.

#### Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings, including foetotomy  
prolapses  
eye cancers  
lame cows  
cryptosporidia in calves  
theileria  
pink eye  
septic navel and joints  
diarrhoea in cows, pestivirus  
cow with ruptured pre-pubic tendon, so her belly was on the ground

Previcox, which is the dog brand of firocoxib, is also a good anti-inflammatory, with less side effects than phenylbutazone, but only comes in tablet form.

#### Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics  
foot abscesses  
melanomas  
laminitis  
eye ulcer  
rain scald  
biggest penis bean I've ever seen

And in the Horses.....

Insects have been giving horses hell. Mostly allergies, but also Habronemiasis. This is a biting fly that lays its eggs in the corner or the eye, end of the penis, on wounds, in the mane, and you get an ulcerating granuloma, sometimes with little white granules in it. Any 'mectin based wormer will fix it, two drenches a couple of weeks apart. Can be mistaken for a sarcoid or even swamp cancer - pithyosis.

The wet weather has meant we have had lots of foot abscesses. Assume this first with every lame horse, especially if there's some seedy toe.

On the anti-inflammatory front there are a couple of new treatments. Meloxicam is now available in suspension - Inflacam - and is very good for analgesia. We have used it in a bad laminitis case and it worked really well. However it is expensive.

### **RUN DATES FOR MARCH**

<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>

