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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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Apologies for the lateness of the newsletter. I was having a week away but Covid stopped that, but I still took a few days off to slash paddocks and feed cows. The Olympics have also been a distraction from writing too. Still on Covid, as regional lockdowns occur, we are classified as an essential service at this stage, especially the large animal side of the practice. All our visits are diarised but if you have a QR code and want us to sign in please let us know. Similarly with mask wearing.

Importantly, the island mandas have been predictably challenged by Moorland fruit. Moto mandas are now not in the race.

Congratulations again to the Curracabark Higgins and Knowla Laurie families on their bull sales. Their high standards filter down and benefit everyone.

When buying some grain mix at Drury's Rob showed me X-Zelit, another approach to milk fever prevention.

At calving the cow needs increased calcium intake to replace all the outgoing calcium in milk. Calcium is needed for all sorts of things, such as muscle and heart function, and if deficient you get milk fever, retained membranes and production losses.

However, the problem is if you increase calcium intake precalving when she doesn't need it, it actually increases the cow's threshold for absorption, so when she needs it at calving she can't access it. The addition of anionic salts to the springer ration helps this accessibility, but they're not very palatable.

You feed X - Zelit to springers in the last two weeks pre-calving and it binds calcium. This forces the cow's metabolism to mobilise calcium reserves, primarily within bone, so that when she calves and needs calcium it is readily available and she can quickly absorb dietary calcium added to the dairy ration.

This month we had a case of Yersinia in a dairy herd with up to a fifteen cows out of 150 milkers with acute diarrhoea. This is sometimes called flood mud scours. It is treatable and these cows have come back onto their milk, so far at about half their pre

scour production. This herd also has no pestivirus, and vaccinates for salmonella.

We also had a scouring bull that was negative for fluke, pesti, parasites and bacteria. He is getting better on hay !

Cattle Diseases of the Month  
calvings, including a schistosome, where the heart/lungs/viscera are all external to the chest and body and the legs are tangled and fused. Very challenging but successful, and she fostered another calf. I think it's my third in 34 years

prolapses  
eye cancers  
coccidiosis in calves  
lame cows  
diarrhoea

Now is the time to think about vaccinating in spring for 5 in 1, 3 Day, and Pinkeye.

And in the Horses.....

The stud season is upon us, so for mares you need to think about preparation for foaling. Such as a safe area to foal, a foal kit including disinfectant, plastic bags and gloves for membranes, tick collar if applicable, enema, and frozen colostrum. You can vaccinate the mare for tetanus and worm her within a month of foaling. If your mare is going the the Hunter valley she may need Hendra and herpes vaccination.

We had a case of chronic diarrhoea in a yearling that has come back as a weak positive for salmonella, with further testing

to follow. This can be vaccinated for, and treatment can be moderately successful.

#### Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics, one fatal  
lamenesses, including foot abscesses and infections in the frog  
eye ulcers  
choke  
ringbone

### **RUN DATES FOR AUGUST**

<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 5TH</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 10TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 12TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 17TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 19TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 25TH</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 27TH</b>

