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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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47 Chatham Avenue, Taree, NSW, 2430

P: (02) 6552 2633 F: (02) 6551 0631

E: tvhreception@gmail.com

Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar

Renate Barnier Sarah Jones

Sue Harvey Sophie Stanojevic

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## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year ! And it's raining, again...I'm writing this from home, isolating due to a Covid close contact. I thought that would give me a chance to do some slashing and poisoning, and now it's too wet ! I hope it's dry in Sydney for watching the cricket.

It's easy to quantify milk response to grain/pellet feed input and to work out if it is profitable to feed grain on top of pasture. Generally you get a 2 litre response per kg grain in fresh cows, 1:1 in stale cows. Maybe 1.4:1 overall. So you can increase or decrease grain input depending on production level and cost of grain. Simple.

Pasture is always said to be the cheapest feed, but what if fertiliser and fuel prices make that not true ? And the above production responses to grain only occur when the cow is eating her full dry matter intake. If pasture becomes expensive, and stale cows are eating almost as much as the fresh cows, its profitability is eroded.

So, last month I surveyed dairy farmers on if and how they could farm this year without fertiliser due to its high price and unavailability.

In summary, the answers were.....

Pay whatever price, do the same

Pay whatever price but cut back on fertiliser use

Buy in hay

Make as much silage as possible

Spread chicken litter

Put lime on instead

A mix of the above, as there is not one right answer.

Nobody said they would reduce numbers.

Three Day Sickness has been reported up the coast, and still no firm date on vaccine availability. We are told mid January. In the mean time, back rub chemical applicators and pour ons are best to keep insect numbers down.

Piligard vaccine for pinkeye is available.

If you are going to spread chicken litter as a fertiliser it's a good idea to vaccinate for botulism. Pasture dressed with chicken litter shouldn't be grazed for 6 weeks after application, longer if it hasn't rained.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings  
prolapses, including one that could not be reduced and replaced  
eye cancers  
lame cows  
Theileria in calves  
lacerated penis  
milk fever  
Calf born to Akabane positive cow.

And in the Horses.....

This month we had two bad eye problems, one an injury and the other an ulcer. When the cornea is ruptured the iris bulges forward to plug the hole, pushed by the fluid behind it and the lens. Sometimes corneas can be repaired but in this case the iris was too damaged and we will probably remove it. The ulcer this month had a good outcome despite being close to rupture and a difficult horse to medicate. The owner put in a great effort.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics  
lamenesses  
eye ulcer  
ruptured cornea after injury  
Cushings disease  
personal record size penis bean removed  
fractured splint bone after a kick  
sarcoïd removal  
Crofton Weed poisoning

A note on one of the colic cases. Sophie saw it and assessed and treated it. The horse had not been Hendra vaccinated and it needed referral for surgery. Two referral hospitals refused to see it for reasons of Workplace Health and Safety policy, which is within their rights. Randwick Equine Clinic took it on, at 2 am, to their credit.

Tamex also deserves credit. We had fresh semen for AI from Tamworth get sent to Sydney by mistake. Tamex had someone drive to Sydney, pick it up and deliver it to us by 4 pm. Excellent service and ownership of the problem.

<b>RUN DATES FOR JANUARY</b>	
<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 6TH</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 11TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 13TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 18TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 20TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 25TH</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 27TH</b>

