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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Spring has come and the grass is growing at last. Cattle prices are at an all time high and rain is forecast. Lockdown has been lifted. So all is good.

One good thing we've seen with Covid is lots of mask wearing on farms, especially the larger ones with many employees.

It is too early to call the winner of the mandarin competition, and I had a good one from Hannam Vale this week. A pearl perch for the winner.

This has been the worst year for worms and parasites of all things, that I can recall, no doubt due to the floods. Lungworm, a rare one, and coccidia in calves especially. The cattle vet journal had a report of

coccidia losses in beef cattle at Bathurst, as well as Lepto at Narrabri and botulism on the south coast.

We have also had several more cases of Yersiniosis, aka Flood Mud Scours, that have responded well to antibiotics.

There was also an article on grass tetany, and how uncommon it had become in the last twenty years. Even in northern Vic, SA and southern NSW. Magnesium is now used more in feed supplements. The last case we had was after silage had been cut and the fresh regrowth, low in Mg, had cows go down.

Metabolic diseases that are still common are phosphorus deficiency and milk fever, but all these can be a bit mixed together. P deficiency can be prevented by super application, lick blocks and P added to the feed. However, high soil iron and low pH will lock up P.

Milk fever prevention is complicated in today's high producing dairy cows. Anionic salts in springer rations and additives like X Zelit help, and avoiding high potassium and nitrogen pastures pre-calving.

The milk vat pcr and antibody tests indicate that Pestivirus is still widespread, but persistently infected animals are probably being culled before they get to the herd or for poor production. Vaccinating pre-mating heifers is probably the best way to go so immunity is created early, not waiting for natural infection to occur. More on this when all results are collated.

Cattle Diseases of the Month  
calvings

prolapses  
eye cancers  
eye removal  
lame cows  
metritis after assisted calving  
locking patella in a Santa heifer  
3rd toe - interdigital fibroma - removals

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics  
lamenesses - foot abscesses, ring bone  
eye ulcers

A bit early to say, but X Zelit is working well for dairy farmers using it for milk fever prevention.

Remember, Spring is the time to vaccinate for 5 or 7 in 1, Piligard for Pinkeye, and 3 Day Sickness.

And in the Horses.....

Three stud season tips. If your mare is due to foal make sure that if she has been caslicked it gets cut. This can help avoid rectovaginal tears. If you are in a tick area have a tick collar ready for the foal from day 1. When your mare foals keep an eye on her membranes, if she passes them and if they are complete. Call us if you are in doubt.

Cow pat diarrhoea in ostensibly healthy horses can be very frustrating to treat and diagnose. Parasites and plant toxins get ruled out first, then dietary changes are made. A faecal pcr is done to rule in or out other causes such as Lawsonia and Salmonella. After that abdominal ultrasound and biopsies can be undertaken at specialist centres.

<b>RUN DATES FOR SEPTEMBER</b>	
LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 2ND
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 7TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 9TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 14TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 16TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 21ST
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 23RD