
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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APRIL NEWSLETTER

The wet weather continued into this month making everything difficult. Walking on paddocks is boggy, let alone planting them. I have seen some quad bikes towing spreaders which work well enough. Some clients are also having aerial seeding done. Lameness and environmental mastitis are the main dairy cow problems. Calves have also had problems in the wet, and there have been cases of cows with watery diarrhoea, negative for "flood scours".

We are having some staff and drug shortages again despite trying to keep adequate stock in reserve. Covid's to blame.

Preg testing results have been nearly all good. A good season helps second calvers and second chancers. We had an interesting result preg testing 300 AI'd heifers. The first group had about 70 % to AI, the second about 40%. Bulls were then put in and both groups had similar percentages of empties, more overall in the second group. At the time of AI the first group were on great flats, the second group rough hills. Both groups cycled well but the superior nutrition of the first group paid dividends. Overall a good result though !

The trend to younger bulls can be a problem when it comes to semen testing. Testes can seem big enough but with young immature bulls it is hard to assess ejaculates. No problem if the semen is good, but often when immature the sample is poor, so has he failed ? Yes, on that day, so the answer is to retest later. If the bull looks like a baby, with an immature appearance and small testes it's usually too soon to test.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

3 Day Sickness

calvings

dislocated elbow in a calf

prolapses, vaginal

eye cancers

lame cows

pestivirus

locking patella surgery - normally a horse problem but occasionally see it in bos indicus breeds. I have done several in this herd, all by the same bull.

And in the Horses.....

Foot abscesses have been very common this month as expected. Mostly they are managed by trimming and creating and encouraging drainage. Antibiotics are only used when the abscess is very deep or swelling is going up the leg.

Calcium requirements for different ages of horses can be found in text books, but are complicated by diet, lactation and pregnancy status. They mostly need 25-35 g/d calcium and a little over half that in phosphorus. Lactating mares may need double this. This month we had a pregnant lactating mare on native grasses with a little setaria go down with calcium deficiency. She has no signs of big head and other mares in the group are ok. All are now being supplemented with dolomite and lucerne hay. It is also worse when horses not used to these pastures get turned out onto them. The balanced calcium and phosphorus additives are also really good, such as the Jenquine range, but most people usually give too little. Can too much calcium be given ? The answer is yes if your horse is already on good pasture. But if on coastal grasses and especially setaria probably not.

Horse diseases of the month

- Cuts
- Colics
- Big Head
- lamenesses

laminitis

Ross River Fever

Cushings. A few months ago I mentioned the Cushings horse that was lactating due to prolactin production from an enlarged pituitary. The horse, treated with pergolide, is now not lactating and its Cushings has improved.

This month, Kirra and I were on our way to X-ray a horse when we were hit from behind and then head on by vehicles. We are both fine. Unfortunately one other driver was badly hurt. I would like to thank all the people who have enquired after our wellbeing, it is very much appreciated.

RUN DATES FOR APRIL

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 7TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 12TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 14TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 19TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 21ST
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 26TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 28TH

