
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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MARCH NEWSLETTER

It has been so wet, especially on the coast where there has been some minor flooding. Inundation is what I've got apparently, acres of it. And the forecast says it's not over yet. Real farmers are anticipating this, as well as mastitis, feet problems, and where and when to start planting.

Already we have had some dairy cows reported to have mud scours from inundated grass.

The most exciting thing I've seen on a farm in a while is Julien Biega's desalinator. This really started in the drought, with Julien trying to filter salt water. He now has a solar desalinator, the first in the Manning that will

use salt water, which is three times saltier than bore water. It has only just been delivered, ironically in a wet season, but more details on this later when it has been set up. Such as volume made and how many times the water will be used.

Prior to the rain we were doing lots of preg testing and a little bit of bull testing for producers taking advantage of good prices and planning ahead. There were some 3 Day cases too.

Away from the rain now, and one farmer has had five cows abort in the last couple of months, all in the last third of pregnancy. They were negative for pestivirus, and two were positive for Neosporosis. This is the protozoal parasite spread by foxes and wild dogs that can cause abortion. However, the test only establishes 1. exposure, as it's an antibody test, and 2. suspicion.

We have had a positive cryptosporidia case in calf diarrhoea this month. Crypto is a protozoal parasite, a bit like coccidia, that is usually in contaminated water. Trying to find the source of contamination is impossible I've found out. The test we do on faeces is a very accurate pcr test. The organism multiplies in the gut so is easy to test for. Mid Coast Water tell me that water samples need lots of volume through filters which are then subjected to expensive testing. In water there's no multiplication like in a calf's intestine, so it's very hard to find.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

3 Day Sickness

calvings

prolapses, vaginal

eye cancers
lame cows
down cow
locking patella
coccidiosis

a twisted uterus that became a caesarian to deliver a live embryo transfer heifer.
Theileria - if you ever think about bringing cattle from Theileria-free areas to the coast in summer, call us or the LLS vet first. There are ways to minimise the risk, but don't do it. Ticks are the main host but any biting insect can carry Theileria.

And in the Horses.....

The wet weather has been conducive to the trifecta of skin problems, from insect bite reactions to rain scald to fungal infections. Oh, nearly forgot, foot problems too. And greasy heel.

Horses legs swell quickly when they have their exercise restricted and can't lie down, like standing in stables or on flood mounds. When swollen legs get injured they infect easily and develop cellulitis.

The wet weather means fungal and bacterial skin problems go together, so antibiotics and antifungals are used together on the skin.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts, a couple of heel cuts
Colics
corneal ulcer
lamenesses , including a fracture to the top of the tibia

bone sequestrum - where a piece of bone loses its blood supply and then gets expelled by the body like a splinter.
laminitis, not to be confused with foot abscesses in both front feet !
mass on fetlock that I biopsied as it looked like a sarcoid, but was in fact proud flesh.

RUN DATES FOR MARCH

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 3RD
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 8TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 10TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 15TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 17TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 22ND
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 24TH

