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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## MAY NEWSLETTER

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The continuing wet weather has seen winter feed being planted by tractor, quad bike, helicopter and drone. As an example, 88 acres were planted in 8 hours by drone, at \$200/hr, plus GST and travel costs. I wonder if this is the future.

However, on Moto my rye grass is being hydroponically grown. It is 3 inches long with little white roots, like bean sprouts, trying to find soil. I planted my paddocks when I had Covid and the obligatory wet week off. In the last month we have had six staff catch Covid, making rosters etc difficult.

Lepto has been diagnosed by pcr testing in beef calves that had blood in their urine,

by the LLS. Lepto is a hard bug to grow and hard to get a definitive diagnosis. Dairy cattle are usually vaccinated with 7 in 1 due to the potential health risk of lepto to the farmer and employees. In beef cattle it hasn't been regarded as having as high a risk, but maybe everyone needs to be vaccinating with 7 rather than 5 in 1. It may be due to rats and mice spreading it, and further testing is being done to identify the strain of lepto.

Every year we see the conundrum of weight loss on rye grass. This is because rye is high in energy and protein, and cows only need 17% protein. So that extra 10% has to be metabolised into urea and ammonia to be excreted in urine. This is done at an energy cost. The only way to avoid this is to balance the diet to bring the protein down, mostly done by adding fibre. However, protein drives palatability. Cows prefer to eat rye grass rather than fibre. If your milk fat is low, more fibre is needed. High quality silage is the best fibre to add.

Cattle Diseases of the Month  
calvings  
prolapses, vaginal and uterine  
eye cancers  
lame cows

As a post 3 Day comment, meat from cows that have had 3 Day can be affected for a month, and we've had farmers have bodies rejected. Wait at least six weeks before sending for slaughter.

The latest cattle vet journal has a paper on mastitis in WA dairy herds, looking at

clinical and subclinical cases, culturing, identifying then seeing which antibiotics work. Lots of antibiotic resistance was seen in staphs and streps. Staph intermedius was a major cause of mastitis over there which is not the case here, where we have more staph aureus and environmental streps. Probably because we are wetter.

And in the Horses.....

Foot abscesses still dominate the horse calls. We have seen some real beauties with underrun soles and hoof separation. Prevention is clean, dry conditions and good hoof trimming to control seedy toe. If you have seedy toe, copper sulphate mixed with wax and packed into cracks works well. I don't like formalin being used as it dries the hoof out too much.

Rain scald, greasy heel and thrush have all been popular complaints.

We had an interesting case of colic this month. Low grade discomfort and alleviated by antiinflammatories with little improvement. She was scoped and gastric ulcers were seen and this is what she is being treated for. It is unusual to have ulcers make a horse this painful, and a pony on a good diet is not the typical horse that gets ulcers. So we'll see how she is after a month.

## Horse diseases of the month

Cuts

Colics

lamenesses

laminitis

Cushings Disease

We have been testing some horses for insulin resistance but have still not diagnosed any.

### **RUN DATES FOR MAY**

**LANSDOWNE.....THURS 5TH**

**OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....TUES 10TH**

**HANNAM VALE.....THURS 12TH**

**DYER'S CROSSING.....TUES 17TH**

**WINGHAM.....THURS 19TH**

**LORNE/COMBOYNE.....TUES 24TH**

**COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....THURS 26TH**

