
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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NOVEMBER

NEWSLETTER

The rain has come to all of us but, apart from the coastal strip, feed will be short for a while yet.

In response to a dairy farmer with suboptimal pregnancy rates in sexed semen we looked at a six straws. I also spoke to Genetics Australia and was told they have a minimum 2.1 Million/ml progressively motile sperm per straw in sexed semen, and 4 M/ml in high fertility bulls (the straws weren't all GA bulls).

We looked at 5 SS bulls and only two were better than the stated minimum. A

conventional semen straw was four times the minimum. Motility varied between 15 and 32 %, 47% for the conventional straw. All straws were thawed at 36 for 30 seconds. All straws were from the same delivery.

I thought that high fertility SS bulls were naturally more fertile rather than more sperm per dose.

I think this backs up what most farmers observe about sexed semen, that it has lower conception rate, and some sexed bulls are better than others. With more producers solely using sexed semen this variation will increase calving to conception intervals and make batch calving harder to achieve. So one solution is to use a range of SS bulls so you don't get caught by one that's less fertile, or check your records and try to use the better ones. Or just use high fertility SS bulls. Or use SS only in select cows, those with high components and a good repro history.

We have had a few phosphorus deficient cows in the last two months. Typically these cows will knuckle their back fetlocks when they walk, and if down they are bright and crawl around with their hind legs behind them, like a frog leg crawl. It is mostly when they are grazing setaria, kikuyu or low P, unimproved pastures. Setaria is high in oxalates which bind calcium.

You won't get it if pastures have been supered in the last two years.

You can treat it with phosphorus injections and prevent it with lick blocks and fertiliser.

Cattle Diseases of the Month
calvings
prolapses, vaginal and uterine
eye cancers
phosphorus deficiency in beef cattle
liver fluke
tick paralysis
Interdigital fibroma
big blood wart

And in the Horses.....

We had a retained meconium in a filly foal, which is a bit unusual since mostly colt foals get constipated. Also, this foal was 24 hours old and had already passed some meconium before blocking. She had enemas, some paraffin and pain relief before passing it.

It's been a few years since we had a tetanus case. The latest was in a horse that had cut its coronet on some corrugated iron seven days previously, and it was euthanased. Treatment is mostly unsuccessful and requires massive nursing effort.

Tetanus vaccination is so often overlooked and forgotten by horse owners. Horses are prone to tetanus, and the vaccine is very effective. Two injections four weeks apart will protect for several years. There is tetanus toxoid vaccine, which you give as a booster, and antitoxin which covers them instantly, but then needs toxoids for continued immunity. The toxoid comes in single dose syringes or ten dose bottles.

Horse Diseases this month

Cuts
colics
lamenesses

laminitis with pedal bone rotation and sinking. This did not respond to corrective shoeing and was euthanised.

foalings

three horses with an abdominal testis gelded

RUN DATES FOR NOVEMBER

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