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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## MAY

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## NEWSLETTER

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The wet weather has continued, which has encouraged the use of drones for planting. I wish they could mulch as well !

Mastitis, lame cows and footrot have been common. A farmer also reported a case of grass tetany - low magnesium - in a cow on short rye and kikuyu after the paddock had been cut for silage. We had some cases similar to this a few years ago. Longer grass, silage and hay are higher in Mg, and it can also be supplemented in blocks and feed additives. Prompt treatment with a four in one bag normally gets them up.

When we have poor preg test results we are always asking why. Testing for diseases from maybe six months before can be difficult. Some tests, like the vibrio swab on empty cows, are very sensitive, which helps.

Last week we had a herd with ten out of fifty pregnant. We tested the empties for pestivirus and vibrio, and semen tested the bulls. The bulls have been vibrio vaccinated. The cows were negative for pestivirus and two of five had high antibody levels to vibrio. These tests may be false positives, as all tests have a percentage of false positives and negatives, so we will do further testing, but vibrio is likely. This will have been introduced from visiting cows infecting an unvaccinated bull, or a visiting infected bull.

If confirmed the herd will be vaccinated for vibrio.

Trichomoniasis is an emerging cattle disease in NSW that has been extending its reach from Queensland. It's a parasitic venereal disease spread by bulls. Sounds a bit like vibrio, but it's harder to diagnose and is untreatable, and there's no vaccine for it. And bulls and cows can be carriers. It shows how important it is to have researched where you buy cattle from, and to have good fences.

Diagnosis is by a preputial swab that's then sent to EMAI for PCR testing. There is no vibrio PCR test yet in NSW.

The bigger picture to look at with emerging diseases is bird 'flu and its ability to spread across species, including to cows and humans.

### Cattle Call Outs of the Month

calvings  
prolapses, vaginal and uterine  
eye cancers  
footrot  
weight loss  
steer on setaria with a broken leg

coronet where sticks can impale themselves. Tetanus toxoid prevention should be given if due. Tendon sheath and joint infections are common and very hard to cure.

colics  
scans  
eye ulcer  
itch  
lamenesses, mostly foot abscesses  
ringbone  
laminitis, with pedal bone changes

### And in the Horses.....

Any horse acutely sick with any of the following signs - nasal discharge, neurological signs, colic and a high temperature, will be assessed as a mild to high risk case of Hendra. If your horse has been vaccinated, even if not for a few years, please tell us first. It makes a huge difference to that risk assessment. The vaccine is very effective with protective antibodies present sometimes years after the last vaccine.

The wet weather has seen lots of hoof abscesses, almost always due to seedy toe allowing bacteria to enter through the hoof. There have also been cases of rain scald.

Most pregnant mares are moving into their last half of their gestation period. Mares with a record of abortion can be helped in the last third to maintain their pregnancy in some cases. If their previous abortion was caused by a placentitis or a bacterial infection antibiotics can be used.

### Horse Visits this Month

Cuts - should always be cleaned and explored, over joints in particular, and the

### **RUN DATES FOR MAY**

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