
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

This month there's been lots of feedback on the milk price rises and pasture quality. And as is usual in such a diverse industry there are always lots of points of view. Some farmers have claimed it one of the best winters ever, some too wet, some too dry !

The important thing is this year's quest for the perfect mandarin. Tragedy struck a former runnerup when fruit bats ate all her mandas. And one client has lifted the standard to never seen before heights by numbering all the mandarins for tasting as they originate from different trees. This dry July has meant the mandas have kept their taste intensity and not filled with water. There's probably only a month to go in this dubious competition.

But the really important thing is Rob has become a father for the first time, Kelly popping out a girl last week.

Several farmers this month have had mid-lactation milk fevers. These tend not to be as dramatic as in fresh cows, although the symptoms are essentially the same. High producers are not always the cows that go down, but it usually affects cows on their 3rd or more calf. Treatment is the same i.e. a bag of 4 in 1, and often only one bag is needed compared to several in fresh cows.

Presumably it's because the fresh rye is low in calcium, as it is in magnesium. High potassium in kikuyu or pasture dressed with effluent will reduce the absorption of calcium. Setaria is also calcium deficient. It may also be contributed to by a lack of calcium in the concentrate. This can easily be checked, and silage can be fed which is made from more mature grass and less likely to be mineral deficient. The fact that it's not always the high producers may be that high production cows eat more and may be getting enough dietary calcium to balance the amount going out in the milk.

In winter we always mention common cow diseases such as Yersinia, grass tetany etc but not much about calves. Calves get coccidiosis more often

in winter. Classic signs are dark scours sometimes with blood, in calves older than about 3 weeks, and depression and weakness. Diagnosis is easy with a faecal examination. Treatment is with Baycox at 20 ml per 50 kg orally, in a single dose. Scour tablets also help.

Worms and lice also occur (worms not as bad as in summer). If using Pour-on drenches in the winter dose to the weight of the heaviest calf. In winter coats are thicker and need more drench to penetrate.

Diseases of the Month

Amputate the end of a bull's sheath after he trod on it

Remove interdigital fibroma or "third toe"

Abortions in late pregnancy, results pending

Eye cancers

Calvings

Colic in horses

Corneal ulcers

Foalings will start this month so here are a few general tips.

Mares often only bag up in the last 4-7 days of gestation and their teats wax up within 48 hours. Foals only take 20 mins to be delivered, usually head and feet first. If you see a foot don't pull on it unless the other leg is there, and you can feel a nose. If it's taking a long time ring if you have concerns.

Mares should pass their placental membranes within 12 hours. If they're retained for a long time or tear, leaving some behind, mares can get very sick with colic, endometritis and laminitis, so

it's worth inspecting the membranes for missing bits when they're passed.

Foals need to drink colostrum within the first 18-24 hours to fully absorb immunoglobulins. Foals that don't drink can be stomach tubed with colostrum from the mare, or given intravenous plasma. If you've got a mare leaking colostrum pre-foaling or has excess colostrum it's worth collecting it and storing it in the freezer for later use.

RUN DATES FOR AUGUST

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