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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Everything that's old is new again. Last month I mentioned how farmers had planted barley and wheat this winter. For the week following that several farmers told me how they used to plant crops, including triticale, a lot. Then it turns out that triticale had also been grown this year. I think it's great that these alternatives haven't been forgotten and consigned to the old days, and that farmers remain flexible and imaginative enough to try these things again.

We are getting closer to moving into the new clinic which is very exciting. We are also changing computer systems next month which will also be a bit traumatic. When it's up and running the new system should be able to print out all the drugs a farmer has purchased in the year for HACCP, possibly including use by dates.

For the next two months we will have vet students from WA and Qld doing their large animal prac work. I'm just mentioning this to thank you in advance for giving students access to your stock. All the students say how invaluable the experience is. However, if anybody has

reservations about them please let us know. All their work is done under supervision and they are all covered by their respective university's insurance.

If you have semiferal cats around the dairy that need desexing now is the time. The students do these under supervision and for a vastly reduced price. Females are especially wanted. When booking them in make sure you tell the girls it's for the students to do. This is only for December and the first two weeks of January.

Heat stress had a big effect on last summer's conception rates with some farms down to 20%. This coming summer some farmers are going to use bulls, some are not mating and some are doing the same as usual. Or, some are putting a larger number of heifers in calf to bulls to offset the expected shortfall in pregnant cows.

NOTICE—there's a meeting at Wingham Golf Club on Monday 11th at 7pm to discuss planned changes in the zoning system for Johne's Disease. All

beef and dairy producers are encouraged to attend. Ph RLPB on 65534 233 to RSVP.

We've had good feedback on the new lactating cow intramammary Clavet LC. It has a withholding period of 7 milkings from the last treatment and 7 days for meat.

I'm also interested in feedback from farmers who are using intramuscular antibiotics to treat mastitis, clinical or subclinical. I hear of the good outcomes but the unsuccessful ones are just as important.

This month is almost the last chance to vaccinate for 3 Day Sickness before it's too late to generate any immunity. Bulls are the priority followed by unmated heifers then mated heifers. If unvaccinated they need two shots four weeks apart.

For mares, **chilled vs frozen AI** ?

Fresh chilled semen has lots of advantages over frozen, the main ones being conception rates and cost of insemination. Fresh chilled semen should have a conception rate of 50 %, whereas frozen is about 30% per cycle. Similarly to live cover there are variations in these figures.

The higher cost of frozen insemination is due to the precision required in its timing, due to the small volume of the inseminate. So more scans are required. The semen also has to be stored, albeit indefinitely. The advantage of frozen semen is you're not dependent on the collection, couriers or any

unforseen events. And you can use imported stallions, even dead ones !

### **DISEASES OF THE YEAR**

Three herds with pasteurella pneumonia

Strep ag mastitis

Calf with 5 legs delivered

Tetanus in a horse

Uterine prolapse in a mare successfully replaced and survived

As I write this we've had 20 mls overnight and it's raining now. This spring has been good to us after a very hot and humid summer and a dreadful winter, so I hope this sort of weather continues, to help offset the increasing price of grain ! On that optimistic note, it's....**Merry Christmas** to one and all and a **Happy New Year from all of us here.**

Stuart, Don, Rob, Tori, Jenny, Linley, Sally, April, Moira, Breanna and Di.

### **RUN DATES FOR DECEMBER**

Lansdowne.....Thurs 7th

Oxley/Mitchell's Is.....Tues 12th

Hannam Vale.....Thurs 14th

Dyer's Crossing.....Tues 19th

Wingham.....Thurs 21st

Lorne/Comboyne.....Weds 27th

Coomba and the deep south..Thurs 28th