
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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JUNE NEWSLETTER

May wasn't a bad month, was it. Some showers and rye grass growing like crazy. Unless you're on Jones Island and you had a small flood.

I've been avoiding this but it's time to talk about Johne's disease and the new changes to zoning and scoring. This is a complicated situation and a bit political. There is not enough room in this newsletter to pick over the whole thing, but we'll have a go.

The Market Assurance Programme was not well used, and this new system is to involve the Victorians because without them it's a waste of time, as most Johne's, we assume, is south of the border.

There will be a scoring system, which will be audited, that requires you to only buy cattle from farms with the same or better score. The score is a measure of confidence that the stock will be Johne's free because of farm practises that minimise the chance of spread of disease.

Taking calves from their mothers within 24 hours, not grazing young stock on pasture grazed by adults, and effluent paddocks not accessible to young stock are some of these.

If you sell cattle to other dairy farmers it may be to your advantage to have your herd blood tested to increase your score to a higher level. However, you can only purchase stock from the same level herds or your score will drop, and if you turn up a (false) positive result there are ramifications.

If you produce your own replacements and sell only to the abattoir it's probably not a big issue.

There is funding for this testing until the end of the year, and the new scoring system starts next year. Fifty adult cows need to be tested. If you think this higher score would be to your advantage, phone Allan Glassop.

There are lots of holes in the new system, such as non-dairy farmers who rear dairy heifers for sale, quarantine, auditing and whether the market will respond to the scoring system. It may even be an advantage to be part of it so our milk is from "Johne's Free" herds.

A thing to remember is that it's not about disease eradication but levels of confidence. From a disease eradication point of view there are too many holes in it to give me any confidence at all !

DISEASES OF THE MONTH

- Milk fever
- Grass tetany—at this time of year is more common due to feeding short, lush rye and cold, changeable weather. Short grass is low in magnesium, which makes cows nervous and sometimes aggressive, and go down. The 4 in 1 milk fever bags have some magnesium and there's magnesate injection. Magnesium oxide can also be added to feed as a buffer. A more balanced diet i.e. fibre such as silage, will prevent it.
- Eye cancers
- Calvings
- Three day sickness
- Worms/coccidia and theileria in calves
- Prolapsed uterus
- Foundered horse , from being overweight
- Abscess on an udder
- Bull with weight loss over two months and lots of fluke eggs in faeces. Liver fluke is not common here but I suspect more prevalent than we think.
- Calcium deficiency in a horse, on setaria pasture, resulting in the horse intermittently going down then unable to rise without assistance. Is now being supplemented with 100 g of dolomite per day and on a new paddock. Another horse in the paddock had “big head” (same reasons).

Worms in horses

The most important worm, the strongyle, is very small and makes its way through the intestine into the blood vessels that supply the gut, and cause these vessels to block, which produces

colic.

More spectacular are round worms, tapeworms and bots that will often come out after drenching, but these are not nearly as pathogenic. All worms will produce ill-thrift and weight loss.

How often to drench depends on the density of horses in a given area. If small paddocks are used with no paddock rotation worming every six weeks may be necessary. If you bring in a faecal sample we can do a worm count to see which worms are present and decide if worming is necessary. This is one common condition where prevention is better than cure, as a lot of damage can be done by heavy worm burdens.

RUN DATES FOR JUNE

Lansdowne.....	Thurs 7th
Oxley/Mitchell's Is.....	Tues 12th
Hannam Vale.....	Thurs 14th
Dyer's Crossing.....	Tues 19th
Wingham.....	Thurs 21st
Lorne/Comboyne.....	Tues 26th
Coomba and the deep south..	Thurs 28th