
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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MAY NEWSLETTER

What a difference a year (and rain) makes. This time last year I headed off on a fishing trip. There was little feed left so I just opened up all the gates and let the cows find a pick for a week. The same week this year and the rye grass is up, they're still eating off some long kikuyu, and they're as fat as fools. And I'm not away fishing...

Also last year I preg tested ~580 head for friends up at Armidale, with 70 empty. This year, after a good season, only 18 out of 560 were empty.

This late summer has also brought 3 Day Sickness to most areas, although not affecting lots of cows like it can. Nursing (water, feed, shade) and antiinflammatories (Key 10 ml im) are the best treatments. Bulls must be looked after carefully to minimise the effects on fertility which can occur if they run high temperatures.

Vibrio, again. A beef property has had poor conception, and spread out conceptions, which we discussed at preg testing. This farmer also knew of "foreign" bulls getting into his herd, and suspected a bug had got into his cows. If something like this is happening we need to be forewarned if possible so we can bring the special media for vibrio culture. The cows have now been vaccinated.

Several months ago I detailed a dairy herd with vibrio. The herd was vaccinated, then he started to AI with the Wagyu bull 036, which resulted in no pregnancies, putting them further behind. Last week I preg tested there, including one of the positive vibrio swab cows, who was pregnant, so we think we're on the improve at last.

Milk fever—it always seems odd when we get a run of milk fevers, it must be due to the feed conditions at the time. This month there have been some cases, all on kikuyu, **not** on grass fertilised with effluent. The only reason I've got is the high potassium in the kikuyu, however, one farmer has them on springer pellets as well and still had some cases. I find

the Calol oral calcium supplement very effective as it has five times the amount of calcium that the bags have, however, it takes longer to absorb.

DISEASES OF THE MONTH

Vibrio

Prolapses, uterine and vaginal

Eye cancers

Calf with swollen joints

3 Day

Calvings, including a Caesar of a shistosome

Sheath amputation in a Brahman bull

Horses.....with swollen legs. This month we've seen several horses with all four swollen pasterns and fetlocks. The swelling is oedematous i.e. if you push your finger into it you leave a dent.

The most common cause is low protein, usually from worms, or bad tick infestations, but possibly due to diet or liver/kidney disease. Next are foot problems, such as frog infections and greasy heel, or abscesses. Then we get into rarer causes such as heart disease or Ross River Fever. The simple things such as ticks are easy to sort out but some of the others need a blood sample for diagnosis.

In the equine literature lately there's been interesting comment on dentistry. Evidence based medicine has become the basis for nearly all therapies i.e. there has to be evidence based on sound peer reviewed research before a therapy is used. This is to protect the animals and the public from "dodgy" work. A recent paper looked at faecal particle size and weight gain/loss in a

group of healthy mares with a variety of dental abnormalities before and after dental interventions, to measure changes. This study excluded diseased teeth, such as abscesses, and old horses.

They found that rasping increased the jaw mobility, but had no effect on particle size or weight gain.

Keep in mind that rasping may well have helped their mouths and other things that weren't measured, and dental work on diseased teeth will result in pain relief and subsequent weight gain.

Like lots of therapies, lots of research is needed to establish the truth...

RUN DATES FOR MAY

Lansdowne.....Thurs 3rd

Oxley/Mitchell's Is.....Tues 8th

Hannam Vale.....Thurs 10th

Dyer's Crossing.....Tues 15th

Wingham.....Thurs 17th

Lorne/Comboyne.....Tues 22nd

Coomba and the deep south..Thurs 24th