
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Spring has sprung, the persimmon trees have budded, and it's time to announce the winner of the mandarin competition for 2010.

This year the Moorland area easily had the best fruit. Ken Atkins is not the winner, he came a close second with great jersey poo fed mandas. Pat Neal can't be the winner due to a minor technicality—he stole the fruit. Robert Allan came close as did former winner Nancy Cahill. But, the winner, new to the mandarin podium, is Mick Drury . Mick's mandas were cold, sweet, easily peeled, perfect size, just right. Mick didn't need to resort to bribery or pressure. And for this inexplicable quirk of nature he wins a frozen pearl perch, the best eating fish in our local seas. As well as fame and kudos.

The drop in milk price has had farmers discussing ways to change production. Firstly, the increased pressure on bulk SCC will translate to attention on old cows, as these generally have higher cell counts. To treat, dry off or cull is an important decision. It also depends on the next point, that is replacements.

We used to often keep heifers back as a group to mate in Jan/Feb with a bull, as this is the hardest time of the year to get cows in calf. The heifers filled in that spring-time gap for cows calving. However, now that the price for spring milk is not good, should heifers be mated in May, to calve from February, to coincide with higher prices ? Should we join in the summer at all ?

Required replacement numbers depend on average age of the herd (which depends on lots of things) and age at first calving. Clearly a young herd needs more replacements compared to an old herd. Sexed semen may have a role here.

Thirdly the focus is on fat and protein. Milk fat is determined by dietary fibre, milk protein is determined by pasture energy. And then there's genetics. Is this the time for a comeback from jersey's and crossbreds ?

In spring time we see some calf pneumonia. Parainfluenza virus, Syncytial virus, pestivirus, rhinotracheitis are all viral causes, as well as bacterial causes such as Mannheimia , for which

there is a vaccine available. Lung swabs, blood samples and post-mortems are needed for diagnosis.

The Bulling Beacon company are now making heat detectors in peel back stick on beacons and glue on beacons with a segmented pattern that folds on the sides so they stick better. They also make scratch E style adhesive heat detectors.

DISEASES OF THE MONTH

Calvings, including a schistosome—a calf that has all its guts on the outside, and two caesars

Prolapses

Eye cancers

Down cows = milk fever, low phosphorus

Salmonella diarrhoea

Foalings have started and we've had one odd one so far. From an Arab mare it's possibly what's called a lavender Foal. This is a lethal recessive gene that produces a dilute coat colour, hence the description lavender, as well as fatal neurological problems. The foals are born normally, have an odd coat colour, want to drink but can't get up and coordinate themselves due to a genetic neurological disorder. From two carriers, 25% will die, 50 % will be carriers and 25% will be free. Commercial testing is done in the US and Sth Africa on hair samples. More on this case in the coming months.

Paralysis ticks will kill foals,

without treatment, until they're about 100 kg. Dog tick collars around the neck work well as a preventative.

HORSE DISEASES

Possible Lavender foal

Sarcoids

Cut horses

Eye ulcer

Lame horses, foot abscesses especially

Mare with an ovarian tumour

Tick paralysis in a foal

Colic in a donkey

When you read this Don will be in Scotland for three weeks, where they can't grow mandarins

RUN DATES FOR SEPTEMBER	
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

