
 Homeopathy in Organic Dairy Practice

Understanding Organics: Livestock Management and Health

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 Homeopathy

- How do we make it work for us?

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 Homeopathy

- Samuel Hahnemann 1755-1843
- From the Greek
 - HOMEOS = SIMILAR
 - PATHOS = DISEASE

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 Samuel Hahnemann



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Health and Disease

- Health = Body and mind in harmony with their environment – at ease
- Disturbance = Dis-ease
- Symptoms – produced by the body in response to the disease force

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Principles of Homeopathy

- Like cures like
- Totality of Symptoms
- Minimum dose
- One remedy at a time
- Vital force
- Direction of Cure
- Susceptibility
- Maintaining Cause

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Homeopathy

- 'The Beast not the Bug'

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Difficulties with Veterinary Homeopathy

- Formulated for use on Humans
- Difficult to assess emotional and subjective symptoms
- Individual medicine – animals are often in groups
- Often expected to simply replace the use of conventional medicines

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Advantages of Homeopathy

- Can be used for prevention as well as treatment
- Has a definite effect on overall health
- Cost
- No residues
- Ease and variety of administration

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Nosodes

- Made from disease products, tissues or organisms
- Prepared in same way as homeopathic remedies but not always proved
- Used isopathically same = same

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Study of Mastitis Nosodes

- Herd randomly split into 2 groups
- 41 cows in each group
- Placebo or nosode

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Study of Mastitis Nosodes

- Placebo group had 10 cows with mastitis
- Treated group had 1 cow with mastitis
- C E I Day 1986

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Parturition and Caulophyllum

- Specific effect on uterine muscle
- Regulates the contraction of the muscle
- Promotes normal parturition

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Problem parturition in dairy heifers

- | ■ <u>Before Treatment</u> | ■ <u>After Caulophyllum</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Calved 18 | ■ 7 |
| ■ Requiring assistance 18 | ■ 0 |
| ■ Calves died 7 | ■ 0 |
| ■ Heifers died 3 | ■ 0 |
| ■ Metritis 10 | ■ 4 |
| ■ Mastitis 9 | ■ 0 |
- CEI Day 1986

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Farmer Feedback

'If I give Caulophyllum on the due day, they calve within 2½ days, usually in the day-time, with less intervention and lower incidence of metritis and retained placenta.'

HAWL Student

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Trial of Sepia in cows

- Cows in 4 groups
 - Untreated controls
 - Placebo controls
 - Treated 24-48 hrs post-calving
 - Treated 14 days post-calving

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Trial of Sepia in cows

- Cows treated on Day 14
 - Increased no of cows seen in 1st service
 - Increased no. holding to 1st service
 - Lowered calving-conception interval

Williamson, Mackie, Crawford, Rennie BHJ 84 Jan 1995
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Sepia

- Prepared from ink sac of cuttlefish
 - Contains melanin
- Exerts effect on hormone system
 - Promotes ovulation
 - Regulates oestrus cycle

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Ignatia

- Grief - separation
- Fail to settle
- Fail to milk well
- Calf fails to thrive

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In summary

- Homeopathy has its own rules and principles
- It looks at health and disease with a different perspective
- It is a great addition to the farm management strategy

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