

Organic Philosophy from a Dairy Producer's Perspective

&

Applied Research in Organic Bovine Health Management

Presenter: Jim Gardiner, Hidden Opportunities Farm, Otselic, NY

Psalm 104:14 KJ



He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.

How did this all get started anyway?

- It wasn't because Lisa McCrory, Dr. Juan Velez or Dr. Linda Tikofsky needed something to keep them busy.
- It wasn't because Veterinarian's looked bored and needed to learn a whole new way to treat cows.
- It wasn't because farmers decided to create a new industry.

So... how *did* it get started then?

- The conventional food industry fell short in supplying a need/desire of the consumer.
- Thus the organic food industry was born out of need/desire.
- This makes the consumer the dominate force
- The consumer chooses according to their philosophy



First....What is Philosophy?

The Thesaurus says...

Attitude, viewpoint, idea, way of thinking, way of life, values, beliefs

$$\frac{\text{Production of a product}}{\text{Consumer's need/desire}} = \text{Success in production}$$

Dominate factor in this equation is the need/desire of the consumer

What are the consumers desires? ...survey said...

- 58% make organic purchases because it is better for the ENVIRONMENT
- 54% chose organic because it was better for their HEALTH
- 57% have a desire to support SMALL and LOCAL farmers
- 42% believe organic foods are of better quality
- 32% believe organic products taste better

—Whole Foods Market® Organic Foods Trend Tracker 2004 survey, October 2004

- **A nutritious product**
- **A product that is made with consideration to the factors used to make it-**

Cows, farmer, land





Exodus 3:8 to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey

Grazing- Why it is such a *huge* health issue

- Nutrition from organic foods is a barely tapped new frontier
- What The Weston A. Price Foundation has to say
- How the mechanical handling of foods changes fats

Stored Feeds Give Special Needs

- pH of stored feeds
- “You are what you eat” (this includes cows too!)
- Grains and other alternative energy sources
- Building the health of your cows with stored feeds

Fixing soils → Mineralization

•“Oral zinc has achieved dramatic cure in Crohn’s disease patients with associated low zinc levels.”¹¹

•“The need for zinc is world-wide and its deficiency is considered only secondary to nitrogen deficiency among soil fertility problems.”¹²

•Zinc is required for protein synthesis. Promotes a healthy immune system. Needed to make vitamin E stable in the blood. Increases the absorption of vitamin A. Must be in a 1:10 balance with copper.

•Deficiency signs include increase susceptibility to infection, infertility and slow wound healing

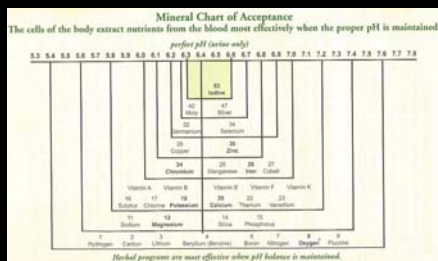
•Sources of zinc- burdock, chickweed, dandelion, mullein

•Compounds called phytates that are found in grains bind with zinc so that it can not be absorbed

•Other minerals

¹²Chemistry of Man, Dr. Bernard Jensen, PhD, ND, Bernard Jensen International, 1983.

Mineralization Factors



Red Clover

Application of proper organic health management will generate both peak production optimal cow health



Individual Health Issues

- Milk Fever
- Ketosis
- Coccidiosis in calves
- Pneumonia
- Scours

Parting Thoughts



Passion? or Infatuation?

- Passion- from Late Latin word *passio*-
suffering, being acted upon. Modern definition-
*an emotion generated by suffering due to the
devotion to some activity, object, or concept*.
- Infatuation- from the prefix *in-* meaning *into*,
toward + *fatuus* ,meaning *a battle that lacks
significance, meaning or point*