

The Use of Homeopathy as a Means of Preventing Crises and Improving Health on the Farm

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*"The inferior doctor treats the sick; The mediocre doctor attends to impending illness;
The superior doctor keeps his patients well."
Chinese Proverb*

This line of thinking may not be so common among large animal veterinarians. There is a collection of stories about a farm call veterinarian called "Hang Up the Phone and Look for a Cloud of Dust". That title seems to epitomize most farm based veterinary practices – the farmer calls in a crisis and the veterinarian becomes an ambulance driver (or may be mistaken for a NASCAR driver).

That adrenaline-driven, life-or-death heroic medicine type of practice is addictive. We have all been in those situations where we are sleep deprived, caffeine fueled heroes, where we either save the patient from impending death or convince the farmer that she was so far gone not even an act of God could have saved her.

OK, maybe that isn't the way your practice functions but that was the way mine worked for a lot of years. Everything was an emergency and needed to be dealt with 5 minutes ago because the farmer's livelihood depended on the production of that cow.

Then one day in a rare lucid moment, I began to wonder why there were so many emergencies and if maybe I wasn't fostering some of them by focusing on the animals only when they were in crisis.

It was about that same time that I came across the Chinese proverb above and it really made me wonder if crisis intervention really was the greatest and highest calling for a veterinarian.

From that point I began to rethink the farm call and came to identify four scenarios on the farm that required the veterinarian's attention (only two of which involved me being an ambulance driver).

These four scenarios were the individual crisis and the herd or collective crisis that necessitated emergency measures, and individual and herd or collective preventative/wellness programs.

Then it became clear that the better you became at providing for the second two, the fewer times you would be called on for either of the first two. Crises can never be completely eliminated, but they can be minimized by a proper holistic approach to medicine.

HOMEOPATHY

My bias in medicine is toward homeopathy. In spite of homeopathy being considered by most to be slow-acting, individualized medicine, I find that it is the tool that best lets me address the four farm call scenarios without having to retool and rethink what I am doing at each farm.

Before we look at the specific applications of homeopathy and the fit of homeopathy in organic production systems, let's take a few minutes to define homeopathy and its rules so that everyone is on the same page.

Homeopathy is a complete system of medical therapeutics that has over 200 years of clinical history but is governed by only 4 rules. Contained within those 4 rules is the ability to effectively and efficiently treat any set of symptoms in any species under any circumstance, whether they arise from acute or chronic disease.

Before exploring the 4 rules and the mechanics of homeopathy, we need to look at the parts of the homeopathic philosophy that deal with disease categories and with the approach to a complete health care system. It is in this philosophy that the stage is set for moving out of the current, conventional model of medicine and to begin appreciating how wellness can be used as the best avenue to preventative health care.

Categories of Disease: Acute and Chronic Disease

As in conventional medicine, homeopathy recognizes both acute and chronic disease. Unlike conventional medicine, the homeopathic designation has nothing to do with duration of the disease process but rather with the dynamic origins of the disease process.

In conventional terms an acute disease is one that is only hours to day in duration. Once it has exceeded an arbitrarily predetermined time, the disease is termed chronic. This line of thinking is governed strictly by Pasteur's Germ Theory which identifies the cause of disease as an external invader.

In homeopathy the terms acute and chronic take on a completely different meaning because they are based on the dynamic origins of disease, not on the temporal duration of the symptoms. It is this difference that determines the way the homeopath approaches the treatment of that particular disease process.

Homeopathy is a vitalist science, meaning that there is a recognition that life is maintained by a vital force, an animating dynamis, or an inherent energy rather than by random physiological and biochemical processes. This vital force is what separates the living from the dead. It is also the vital force that directs the feed back mechanisms that maintain homeostasis in the body.

For the homeopath the “disease” is not the static diagnosis but is rather a disruption of the vital energies or the animating dynamis of the body from either external or internal stressors. It is at the level of this vital energy that disease develops.

This disruption or impingement of the energetic dynamis results in the resetting of the normal healthy point of homeostasis by the vital force to reflect the summation of these stresses. This new balance point, away from perfect health, results in the production of symptoms. In this view, symptoms are the vent or discharge of the dynamis forced into an unbalanced point of homeostasis. The symptoms are merely the results of the disease, the response of the body to the disharmony produced in the dynamis.

So artificially stopping symptom production without bringing balance and harmony back to the system does nothing to actually cure or heal the body in the long term.

Within this vitalist understanding of the body, an acute disease, then, is any disease process whose dynamic origins are external to the dynamis of the body. The acute disease is not dependent on individual susceptibility and is capable of overcoming individual resistance.

Within this definition, an acute disease arises either from trauma, poisonings (either excesses or deficiencies), or epidemic contagions in which nearly every member of the population is exhibiting similar symptoms (as opposed to contagions where only one or a few susceptible members get sick and display varying symptoms).

Acute diseases have a period of onset, a period of symptom, and a period of resolution. The patient will recover from an acute disease (though there may be permanent physical impairment from the pathology induced by the disease process) unless the process is so severe that it results in the death of the patient.

Even though there is spontaneous resolution, the acute disease is treated in order to reduce suffering and death, to speed recovery, and to minimize economic impact.

Treatment of acute disease is forgiving of less than perfect therapeutic intervention. Since an acute disease is not an integral part of the inherent dynamis of the patient and since there will be a spontaneous resolution, manipulation of acute disease will not necessarily affect the pattern of disease seen in the future of the patient. In other words, imperfectly treated acute disease will not produce a pattern of deteriorating health in the future of the patient.

Chronic disease, on the other hand, is basically every thing not related to trauma, poisonings, or overwhelming epidemic contagions. Chronic disease is related to the susceptibility of the patient and to the inherent dynamic state of health of the patient. Chronic disease is reflected in the trends and patterns of symptoms produced by the patient throughout its life, exclusive of those symptoms arising from true acute disease.

Chronic disease has a period of onset and a period of symptom but no period of spontaneous resolution. Because chronic disease arises from an internal disturbance of the vital energies of the body, there can be no spontaneous resolution. Total resolution can come only from bringing balance and harmony back to the entire system, including the animating energies.

Since chronic disease is ongoing unless dynamically cured, the treatment of chronic disease is less forgiving than the treatment of acute disease. Today's manipulation of chronic disease is reflected in the pattern of disease in the future of the patient for better or for worse. This is why it is critical to identify a process as chronic and to treat it curatively in its fullness. Otherwise we will see this same process mature and deepen into more serious symptoms in our patient over time.

The example I give here is in the difference between babies in a nursery and residents in a nursing home. The disease processes are the same but are much more superficial, less threatening in the nursery. However in the nursing home, we see the end results of improperly manipulated, uncured chronic disease that has matured and deepened over the life of the patient.

This is an important concept as we begin to think about wellness and true preventative therapeutic options. We must appreciate the trends and patterns of chronic disease, how it matures and deepens in the patient, and how non-curative manipulations can actually speed the progression of chronic disease by disallowing the more superficial expressions of the disease.

Chronic disease will wax and wane over time. An exacerbation of chronic disease can reach crisis proportions but must not be mistaken for a true acute disease. Mastitis is a good example of this. If the mastitis is not caused by trauma, poisonings, or overwhelming epidemics, then it stems from the chronic disease of the patient, regardless of the bacteria that is cultured or the severity of the symptoms. The bacteria are there and are only capable of causing problems because of the susceptibility of the patient.

If we mistake that mastitis for a true acute disease and only treat for the crisis, we have helped for the day but we have done nothing to improve the health of the cow or to prevent future episodes of mastitis or the sequela of this episode. However if we recognize the mastitis for the true chronic disease that it is, and if we treat the cow in such a way as to improve her overall health and to remove her tendency to mastitis, we have not only treated today's crisis but have gone a long way toward preventing tomorrow's crisis.

Two Aspects of a Complete Health Care System: Hygiene and Therapeutics

In looking at the true dynamic nature of disease, it becomes apparent that the first step in any health care system should be to reduce external stressors to the greatest degree possible. In doing so, the prevalence of acute disease will be drastically reduced since acute disease is rooted in external stressors and the exacerbations or crises of chronic

disease will be similarly reduced since most crises of chronic disease are catalyzed by external stressors.

This means that we, as health care providers, should make every possible effort to ensure the patient's world is normalized for that species. Homeopaths call this all-encompassing normalization "hygiene".

Hygiene in this sense is not limited to sanitation, although that is a large part of hygiene. It also includes providing species appropriate, wholesome nutrition; providing for maximal digestive functions; fresh, clean and plentiful water; providing adequate housing with proper ventilation, lighting, and space per animal; ensuring proper handling procedures and facilities; providing species appropriate work loads, socialization, and expectations; and, ensuring that no other factors on the farm or in the herd are causing unnecessary stress.

Organic producers are probably more in tune with this depth of hygiene than are their industrial counterparts. In fact in many instances, the organic producer is more knowledgeable about hygiene than are their veterinarians.

Because the fields of hygiene are so diverse and so far reaching, it is often most beneficial for a farm to have a team approach to hygiene. This may mean having independent premise audits by neighboring farmers, extension agents, veterinarians, or university professors; utilizing experts in soil biology and structure to ensure forage crops are maximally nutritious; using botanists to help select crops tailored for the microenvironment of the particular farm; using animal scientists to help select stock matched to the challenges of the particular farm; using holistic health care providers to tailor therapeutic and wellness plans; and, having animal behaviorists critique the housing and handling of the herd.

To the extent that we can provide a healthy environment and proper nutrition to a stress free herd, to that extent we can expect minimal health problems and crises on the farm. Acute disease can be all but eliminated as can the exacerbations of chronic disease.

But if there are health problems on the farm, either in the herd or in the individual, after all issues of hygiene are addressed, then at that point we need to address that residual level of disease through curative, efficient, and economical therapeutics.

Therapeutics may include any one of a number of medical modalities, surgery, or body work. The therapeutic choices are often limited by existing organic standards and by providers who are well-versed in and competent to treat livestock.

By providing proper hygiene prior to engaging any therapeutic intervention, we can limit the necessity for therapy and can ensure that the therapy chosen will be maximally effective since there will be minimal obstacles remaining on the road to cure.

And this brings us back to Homeopathy. For me, homeopathy is the ideal medicine for the organic farm as it is effective under most conditions (acute and chronic disease in individuals and in herds), is very economical (in both drug cost and administration costs), and will meet even the most stringent of organic standards.

As we said above, homeopathy has only 4 rules that must be followed. The elegance of these four rules allow homeopathy to be used in any species, for any set of symptoms (acute or chronic), under any set of circumstances.

These four rules are as follows:

1. The Law of Similars – Similia Similibus Curantur or Like cures Like

If a substance given in large quantity can cause a set of symptoms, this same substance will be curative if given in minute quantities to a patient exhibiting similar symptoms.

This one rule differentiates homeopathy from all other therapeutic systems currently in practice.

All systems of therapeutics, other than homeopathy, intervene in a manner that is opposite or contrary to the symptom. In conventional medicine, we are used to administering “anti-“ medicines to the patient – ANTI-inflammatories, ANTI-biotics, ANTI-parasitics, ANTI-emetics, ANTI-this and ANTI-that.

In Homeopathy we do just the opposite. We give a medicine which is “pro-symptom”. Only homeopathy intervenes in a manner that affects the body in a fashion similar to the symptom of the patient’s disease. These minute doses of similar medicine catalyze the innate healing mechanisms of the body so that we capitalize on the homeostatic nature of the body rather than being dependent on the artificial anti-symptom manipulations of pharmaceuticals.

Let’s look at the response of the body to therapeutic interventions this way: The body seeks homeostasis which is the state defined by the health of the body plus any internal and external influences. This point of homeostasis will be shown through the symptoms produced by the body. If the body is artificially moved away from its point of balance (without having the unbalancing influences altered), the homeostatic tendencies of the body seeks to return to that previous point of homeostasis.

This tendency produces a biphasic response of the body to any medicinal intervention. The first or primary medicinal response is the direct action of the medicine on the body. The secondary medicinal response is the result of the homeostatic mechanisms of the body. This secondary response is always counter to the direction of the primary response as the body seeks to regain its previous state of homeostasis.

Medicines administered in opposition to the symptoms, temporarily overcome the symptoms only for as long as the body is under the influence of the medicine but do

nothing to reset the body's balance point, do nothing to alter the internal or external influences. The patient temporarily feels better but is not made healthier. Once the primary influence of the medicine diminishes, the tendency of the body is to return to its previous state of health as a result of the secondary medicinal response of the body.

In conventional medicine this accounts for the need for large and repeated doses of medicine. The body must be kept under the primary (anti-symptom) influence of the medicine until the acute disease runs its course or until the chronic process moves away from the production of that particular set of symptoms. By this time the energies of the body are often too deranged to mount a coherent counter-response or, if the counter-response is seen, the patient is usually put on a higher dose or a stronger medicine to maintain the anti-symptom response since the counter-response mimics the disease.

In homeopathy, we give medicines which are capable of causing similar symptoms in the patient as their primary medicinal response. The concept is that two similar influences cannot co-exist in the same time in the same space. The stronger of the two similar forces will displace the weaker of the two. The goal of homeopathy is to give a similar medicine that is slightly stronger than the naturally occurring disease.

Once the stronger similar primary medicinal influence runs its course, because it has displaced the naturally occurring disease, the body is able to mount a counter or secondary response that is unimpeded by the natural disease. Because the primary medicinal influence was pro-symptom, the counter-response of the body is anti-symptom. Thus the natural tendencies of the body toward a healthier point of homeostasis can be used to the benefit of the patient during homeopathy therapy.

These tendencies of the body are easily recognized with the following physical demonstrations.

Place your hand in a bucket of ice water. The initial influence (primary response) of the cold water is to make the hand cold, blue, and numb. Now remove your hand. The secondary influence – the body's counteraction to the influence of the cold – causes the hand to burn, become red, and really hurt, then it settles back into its original, pre-iced state.

Or think about what happens when you drink coffee in the early morning. You get a quick "wake up" by the primary influence of the caffeine in the coffee. But about mid morning when the caffeine buzz wears off, you crash. You become sleepy and dull (unless you continue to drink coffee during the day) as a result of the secondary response of the body.

Then for the heavy coffee drinkers, what happens when you don't drink a cup of coffee in the morning? You get a screaming, pounding headache. Another of the primary medicinal influences of caffeine is an anti-headache action. That is why caffeine is added to many of the most popular over-the-counter headache relief medicines. So as you drink coffee, the caffeine keeps the body under the primary anti-headache influence. Then

when you skip the morning coffee, the body is no longer under that primary influence, and responds with a counter, secondary response causing the same sort of headache that the primary response of the caffeine relieves.

Now as way of experiment, the next time you are cooking and burn yourself, resist the temptation to apply ice or cold water (anti-burn manipulations) to the burn. Rather, hold the burned area near the heat source. A burning sensation will be felt in the burned area before it is felt in the adjacent tissue because the burn has been sensitized to the heat. Once this burning is felt, move away from the heat source. The burn from the application of extra heat will disappear, as will the pain from the initial burn. Reapply heat as the burning sensation returns. Normally in 2-4 cycles the pain will be permanently gone and the burned tissue will not blister.

These are examples of physical manipulations but the response of the body is the same to chemical or energetic manipulations.

2. The Use of Only Proved Medicines

If we must give medicines which are capable of producing similar symptoms as those displayed by the patient, we must first know what the medicine is capable of producing.

To this end the substance is given to a group of healthy people (this is the only medicine which is completely human tested) in sufficient quantity and repetition as to cause them to produce symptoms. This is termed a “proving”.

These symptoms are then collected and catalogued as if they had occurred in a single individual. These provings are collected in books called *Materia Medica*, which are basically dictionaries of the medicines.

Through this process we know what each medicine is capable of producing in every organ system, in every area of the body, and on every plane of existence – mental, emotional, spiritual, physical, functional, and pathological.

For the symptoms of true acute disease, some of this information can also come from poisonings or from clinically cured cases in which the medicine was used in a more chemical form, i.e. herbally rather than homeopathically. This latter aspect holds especially true for the trauma type remedies.

Only in these ways can we know the medicine intimately enough to be able to correctly prescribe it according to the Law of Similars.

3. The Use of the Totality of Symptoms

Since this is a holistic approach to medicine, and since we are treating the entire patient or event and not merely an artificial diagnosis, we must base our prescription on all the symptoms produced by the patient. The more fully we can match the complete symptom

picture of the patient with the symptom picture produced by the medicine, the more likely we are to cure our patient on all levels of all symptoms. This holds true whether the patient is an individual patient or a collective patient such as a herd or flock experiencing an epidemic contagion of an acute nature.

Only by looking at the complete patient in chronic disease or the entire event in acute disease or the crisis of chronic disease can we hope to cure the patient totally and not just manipulate a few symptoms.

To make the job of matching the symptoms of the patient to the symptoms of the remedy easier, we use the strange and unusual symptoms of the patient in seeking a matching remedy. These symptoms may be strange and unusual because of their nature or presentation, their consistency, their recurrence, their excessiveness, or just their peculiarity in a certain situation. If we can match the peculiar symptoms of the patient and remedy, we will also have the common symptoms matched.

The symptoms of the remedies brought out by the provings are listed in books called Repertories which list the symptom along with the remedy or remedies which caused the symptom. Through the use of the repertory, the symptom of the patient can be matched with the symptom of the remedy and a list of potential remedies for the patient can be developed.

In true acute disease, it is often more time efficient to make use of a homeopathic first aid book or emergency manual to derive a list of potential remedies for the diagnosis.

These remedies, whether from the repertory or from the first aid/emergency manuals, can then be studied in detail in the materia medica so the best match between the remedy and the patient can be found.

By using the totality of symptoms of the patient, both present and past, the homeopath can see the pattern of chronic disease in the patient and can predict what the next crisis may be. By treating the totality of symptoms, elevating the overall level of health in the patient, and thereby removing the patient's tendency to disease, the homeopath can often prevent future crises of chronic disease.

In a small dairy it is possible to treat all the milking string this deeply. In larger dairies, where the numbers prevent such in-depth therapy with each individual, the highest producers and/or the chronic problem cows can be treated at this depth to maximize herd production and minimize herd problems.

4. The Use of a single dose of a single medicine

Since our homeopathic prescription is based on the totality of symptoms of the individual or collective patient, we should be able to find a single medicine which will address all the symptoms of the patient or the crisis event. In this way, we can treat the entire patient without worrying about untoward interactions from multiple concurrent medications.

This also allows us to introduce only a single variable so that we can better assess what that particular treatment has done.

This tenet is especially relevant in today's world of medical specialization in which each practitioner treats a separate area of the patient with a separate set of drugs. A significant part of my practice comes from patients suffering the side effects of conventional medicines and untested combinations of medicines, often prescribed by multiple veterinarians who have no knowledge of the other medications the patient is currently taking.

Since we are relying on the counter-response of the body to cure the patient, rather than on the primary effect of the medicine to artificially stop the symptom, we must give the body time to respond. This is why a single dose of medicine is given then the medicine is allowed time to effect its changes. We evaluate the body's reaction to our medicine and once the curative process is begun, the medicine is repeated only as necessary to maintain progress toward cure. Repeating the dose too quickly will confuse the curative response of the body.

The dynamics of the patient's response should mimic the dynamics of the disease process so that response to the treatment of fulminate, fast moving disease processes is seen much quicker than the response expected to the treatment of slow, smoldering chronic disease. The difference may be a delay of seconds to minutes in fulminate crisis to weeks in subtle smoldering chronic disease. This means that the remedy in acute disease or crisis is often repeated much more often and more quickly than in chronic disease conditions.

It is at this point, after the case is taken and the medicine is given, that the patient is in control of therapy. The patient's duration of response and change of symptom picture will tell the homeopath when to repeat the remedy, to change the potency, or to change the remedy altogether.

An Ancillary to the 4 Tenets of Homeopathy

Perhaps more than any facet of Homeopathy other than the Law of Similars, the preparation of the homeopathic medicines is most directly identified with Homeopathy. This preparation process is not necessary to the practice of Homeopathy but it does allow the practice of homeopathy to be much more elegant, more effective, and less stressful to the patient.

Homeopathic remedies are prepared through a series of dilutions and succussions. For example the C potency remedies are diluted 1:100 and succussed or physically manipulated at each step. So a single portion of the original substance is diluted with 99 parts of diluent and succussed to become a 1C potency. A single portion of the 1C potency is diluted with 99 parts of diluent and succussed to become a 2C. And so on up the scale to infinity.

This process dilutes the gross chemical and physical properties of the original substance to help prevent noxious side-effects in the patient while refining and focusing the energy inherent to the original substance to make it more active. The process of serial dilution and succussion is another of the areas where homeopathy fails to meet the standards of plausibility of conventional Western science.

The changes effected by succussion have yet to be identified or measured and the dilutions of the medicines are often carried out beyond our capacity to measure the dilution. To further complicate the issue of plausibility is the fact that the higher potencies of remedies are more potent, more active than the lower potencies even though they are more diluted and contain less of the original physical compound.

In Western science if a phenomenon cannot be measured it cannot be validated. However, homeopathy is an empirical science where these phenomena can be validated through personal experience. We can see the action of the remedy given, whether we can measure and quantify the active principle or not.

As homeopaths we have over 200 years of clinical experience and cases to show that remedies can never be so diluted as to not effect a change in the patient if properly prescribed based on the Law of Similars. Just as the burned area of the finger was more sensitive to the reapplication of heat in the previous example, so the mistuned body is more susceptible to the influences of a medicine capable of producing similar symptoms. Because of this sensitivity, we can use micro-doses of the medicine to affect the deranged aspects of the patient, without affecting the normal functioning facets.

It is this extreme dilution of the remedies that make this medicine ideal for organic and holistic food production facilities. Since there are no chemical properties left in the medicine, there is no tissue contamination and therefore no mandatory withholding time. Neither is there a risk of environmental contamination from excreted pharmaceuticals.

And that is the philosophy and theory of homeopathy in a nutshell.

So how does this translate to practical use on the organic dairy? Let's look at a case study for each of the four scenarios given at the beginning of the paper.

Individual Crisis:

A Case of Obturator Nerve Paralysis (Acute Disease)

Large cow in heavy labor, calf stuck at the hips, farmer and son pulling on calf for all they are worth. Cow is in lateral recumbency, udder is huge with grossly swollen milk veins. Fortunately the cow rolls to the sternum as the son is pulling the calf. This torques the calf and unlocks the hips. Cow remains down, rear legs buckle if she attempts to stand, ears are down and shaking. Farmer is convinced she has milk fever.

Analysis:

- 1.FEMALE GENITALIA/SEX - DELIVERY - after; complaints
- 2.FEMALE GENITALIA/SEX - DELIVERY - after; complaints - injuries of parts
- 3.EXTREMITIES - PARALYSIS - Lower limbs

4.GENERALS - INJURIES - Nerves; of

arn. rhus-t. bell. nux-v. sec. calc. kali-c. sulph. cham. sep. bry.

419 259 250 250 250 240 240 240 229 229 220

A single dose of Arnica 30c has the cow standing within 3 minutes and on her way to the water trough. Cost to farmer - \$0.0004 total treatment

A Case of Bryonia Mastitis (An Exacerbation of Chronic Disease)

Cow calved 5 days ago. Had normal pregnancy and delivery. Developed a hot, painful mastitis. The milk produced is fairly normal in appearance. Milk production is gradually diminishing. The cow has developed a pitting swelling of the rear legs that extends to the hoof. She refuses to move and bellows in pain at the slightest movement. If she is forced to move she will begin with a deep cough. No culture or sensitivity was done on milk

Analysis:

- 1 CHEST - INFLAMMATION - Mammae
- 2 CHEST - MILK - disappearing
- 3 EXTREMITIES - PAIN - motion - slightest
- 4 EXTREMITIES - MILK - LEG
- 5 COUGH - MOTION - agg.

bry. calc. sil. bell. lyc. arn. merc. lach. rhus-t. puls. sulph. acon.

980 530 469 459 450 440 419 409 409 370 359 340

A single dose of Bryonia 1M had the cow moving about with a couple of hours. Within 2 days the udder and milk were back to normal production. Cost similar to above case.

Herd Crisis:

Outbreak of Diarrhea Following Arrival of Sick Calves at Neighbor's Farm (Acute)

Organic herd of 25 head surrounded on 3 sides by non-organic herds. Neighbor to one side brought in 20 calves from local auction barn. Most were visually sick within 2 days. All 25 head on this farm showed symptoms within 7 days as did the cattle on the farm behind and to the other side of this farm.

Sick cattle had fluid green diarrhea that was basically odorless, high fever that would come and go, and a bloody nasal discharge.

Analysis:

1	RECTUM	-	DIARRHEA
2	STOOL	-	WATERY
3	STOOL	-	GREEN
4	STOOL	-	ODORLESS
5	NOSE	-	DISCHARGE
6	FEVER - INTERMITTENT		bloody

ars. phos. kali-bi. merc. verat. ferr. rhus-t. ph-ac. calc. chin. hep.

680 680 664 660 660 659 655 640 580 580 580

Herd was treated daily with Phosphorus 200c for 5 days. By that time symptoms had resolved. Treatment continued once weekly until the contagion on the neighboring farms abated. Total cost of treatment: \$0.01/day

This herd had 0% mortality. The conventionally treated farms surrounding this farm had 25-50% mortality.

Diarrhea in Herd Replacement Heifers (Acute)

Nine month history of high morbidity, high mortality diarrhea in calves up to 6 weeks old and pneumonia in older surviving calves. Cultures of calves were variable changing between Salmonella, Pasturella, E.coli, and various other pathogens. Resistant to all therapy allowed by the Organic Standards, resistant to all antibiotics with the calves removed from organic status.

Identified broken seal in pump sending milk to calf barn. Multiple pathogenic bacteria were cultured from the goo behind the seal. Repaired and sterilized the line but the issue continued probably because of environmental contamination.

Focusing on the older calves (since we have had a diarrhea case study already), the clinical picture in the pneumonia calves was clear, stringy nasal discharge; some clear discharge from the eyes; rapid, shallow respiration; a constant hacking cough; and, total lack of appetite.

Analysis:

1	NOSE	-	DISCHARGE	-	clear
2	NOSE	-	DISCHARGE	-	mucous
3	RESPIRATION		-	SUPERFICIAL	

4

COUGH

-

HACKING

5 STOMACH - APPETITE - wanting - coryza; during

phos. bell. sulph. chin. nat-m. mez. calc. sil. stann. squil. acon. iod.

610 490 430 365 365 340 330 330 330 329 325 325

All calves (clinical and non-clinical) were dosed with Phosphorus 200c once. By the next day all the clinical calves had spiked a fever over 104* (temps had previously been slightly elevated to slightly depressed as the calves couldn't mount a decent immune response to the contagion), but at the same time were acting brighter – moving in the pen, drinking better, and beginning to eat. Calves were dosed weekly until the threat of continuing spread of the contagion passed.

Individual Wellness:

Cow with Recurrent Mastitis (Chronic)

Five year old with a history of mastitis on last three freshenings. Each episode was harder to resolve than the previous. Quarter would get stone hard, milk in that quarter would be watery with flakes but not much could be milked out. After resolution of the mastitis, the cow would be a difficult milker because her teats tended to stay dry and cracked. This cow also had chronically hard, swollen lymph nodes in her throat and a frequent thick, white to yellow nasal discharge.

Analysis:

- 1 CHEST - INFLAMMATION - Mammae - delivery - after
- 2 CHEST - MILK - thin
- 3 CHEST - MILK - suppressed
- 4 CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae
- 5 CHEST - CRACKS - Nipples
- 6 EXTERNAL THROAT - INDURATION of glands
- 7 NOSE - DISCHARGE - thick

sil. sulph. merc. bell. puls. carb-v. graph. calc. lyc. carb-an. rhus-t.
944 700 680 639 589 580 580 560 560 550 480

This cow was treated with a single dose of Silicea 1M and given appropriated supportive therapy during the mastitic episode. Over the course of the next several months, the nasal discharge cleared and the lymph nodes in her throat shrunk to normal size. She was redosed during the year on the recurrence of these two symptoms and made it through the next freshening without mastitis.

Cow with a High Somatic Cell Count (Chronic)

Four year old cow with no clinical signs of mastitis but a consistently high SCC (according to dairyman). She is a big framed, easy keeper with a tendency to lick clay and chew on rocks and concrete. This cow is frequently lame with swollen, easily sprained joints. She is a slow breeder who has irregular cycles but is one who aggressively rides the other cows even when she or they are not in season. Also, she is one of those cows who is always cold, standing in the sun even in the heat of summer, and is very susceptible to snotty noses.

Analysis:

1 CHEST - MILK - complaints of milk
2 GENERALS - FOOD and DRINKS - indigestible things - desire
3 GENERALS - HEAT - lack of vital heat
4 GENERALS - COLD - take cold; tendency to
5 FEMALE GENITALIA/SEX - MENSES - irregular
6 MIND - NYMPHOMANIA

sil. lach. calc. nux-v. bell. merc. nat-m. ign. calc-p. puls. lyc. con.

764 750 700 669 650 639 630 619 575 575 569 550

This cow was dosed with Calcarea 200c. Her appetite depravities changed first and were used as the marker for redosing. Over the course of the year, she stopped ridding the other cows and her SCC dropped. She has now gone over a year without lameness.

Herd Wellness:

Most herd wide issues on a dairy are managed through changes in hygiene. The exception being contagions. When a contagion is present in the area or on the farm, the remedy best suited to protect the non-clinical animals is the one best suited to treat the sick animals. In the above example of pneumonia in the replacement heifers, the entire group was treated with Phosphorus so that the sick were treated therapeutically and the non-sick were treated prophylactically to prevent them from succumbing to the contagion.

Prophylactic Use of Remedies in a Backgrounding Operation (Acute)

Backgrounding operation in the West served as a collecting point for 4000 head in a cycle. Calves were trucked in, vaccinated, dewormed, treated for external parasites, branded, ear tagged and started on feed. They experienced a high percentage of calves with shipping fever complex in the first week after arrival. The sick calves were extremely stressed/anxious/restless and showed a high fever with drooling, a watery nasal and ocular discharge, and a hard, dry, croupy cough. Response to antibiotics was minimal.

Analysis:

1		MIND	-			ANXIETY
2		FEVER	-		BURNING	heat
3		MOUTH	-	SALIVATION	-	profuse
4		NOSE	-	DISCHARGE	-	watery
5	COUGH - CROUPY					

ars. bell. acon. cham. chin. nit-ac. phos. hep. lach. staph. brom. ant-t.

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Calves were dosed with Aconite 1M as they were being processed initially and again as they were worked later in the program. The incidence of shipping fever dropped by over 50% following this protocol.

CONCLUSIONS:

While many of the aspects of homeopathy fall outside the accepted boundaries of conventional science, there are over 200 years of empirical data showing the efficacy of the medicine. However in order to make homeopathy seem plausible to those new to the medicine, we must reach a new appreciation for the dynamic nature of disease.

Once this new appreciation is reached, then it becomes apparent that the use of homeopathy is ideal for the modern organic dairy. Not only can the medicine be used to quickly treat individual and collective crises, it can be used as a very effective preventative against future crises by elevating the level of health on the farm and by removing the individual tendencies to illness.

Combine this with the economics and ease of therapy, and with the benefits of the infinitesimal doses not having mandatory withdrawal times or any possibility of tissue or environmental contamination, and you have the cutting edge of traditional medicine for the 21st Century.