





# Homeopathy in Organic Dairy Practice

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## Understanding Organics: Livestock Management and Health



# Homeopathy

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- How do we make it work for us?



# Homeopathy

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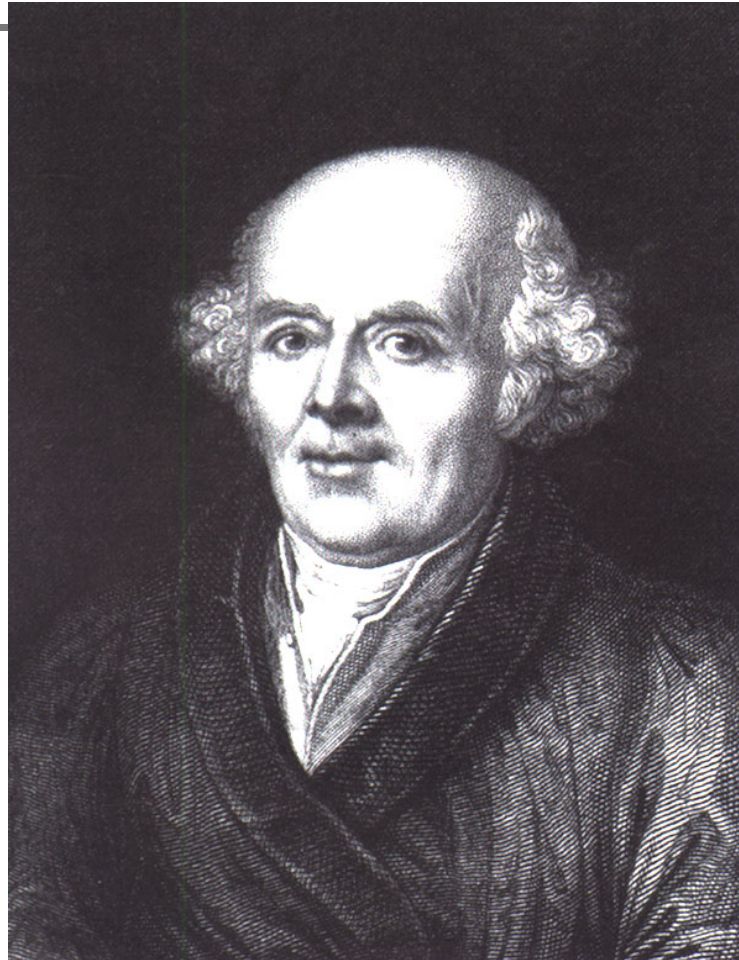
- Samuel Hahnmann 1755-1843

- From the Greek

- HOMEOS = SIMILAR

- PATHOS = DISEASE

# Samuel Hahnemann



T.E.Adams BVSc MRCVS  
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# Health and Disease

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- 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



# Principles of Homeopathy

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



# Homeopathy

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- 'The Beast not the Bug'



# Difficulties with Veterinary Homeopathy

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- 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



# Advantages of Homeopathy

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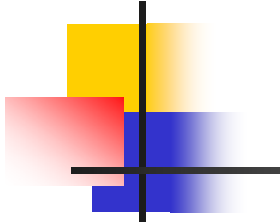
- Can be used for prevention as well as treatment
- Has a definite effect on overall health
- Cost
- No residues
- Ease and variety of administration



# Nosodes

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- 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

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



# Study of Mastitis Nosodes

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

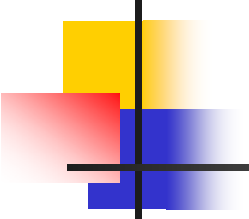
# Parturition and Caulophyllum



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

# Problem parturition in dairy heifers



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<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		



# Farmer Feedback

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'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



# Trial of Sepia in cows

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



# Trial of Sepia in cows

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

Williamson, Mackie, Crawford, Rennie BHJ 84 Jan 1995

T.E.Adams BVSc MRCVS  
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# Sepia

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



# Ignatia

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



## In summary

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- 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

