



Alternative Approaches to Livestock Health

1. Scope of Study

Whole Health Agriculture (WHAg) is surveying farmers who incorporate non-conventional or alternative approaches into their livestock health management, in order to identify those practices, methods and products which:

- are used to successfully manage livestock health
- have the potential to reduce or refine the usage of antibiotics and other synthetic/toxic chemical interventions
- are worthy of further research, development and/or knowledge transfer to farmers and related professions

As a thank you, you will be entered into a draw to win one of three prizes of £250 towards an activity or investment that benefits the health of yourself or your livestock.

How will the results be used?

WHAg will analyse the results and produce a report for publication on our website, in articles, and in presentations. It will also form the basis for wider research involving other countries.

Your participation will guarantee access to the completed report.

Confidentiality & Privacy

Your anonymity and confidentiality are guaranteed. By participating you are agreeing to your data being stored securely in accordance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regs). All responses will be used in aggregate form in order to understand practices, trends and attitudes. NB Any quotations will be non-attributable.

Should you have any queries, please email: karen@wholehealthag.org



Alternative Approaches to Livestock Health

2. Qualifying Question

1. Do you use, or have you ever used, any non-conventional, complementary or alternative methods, medicines or products (*CAMs) to prevent illness, maintain health, or as treatment for livestock in your care?

*By CAMs we mean any non-pharmaceutical or 'natural' approach, eg:

- herbal leys, herbal remedies or medicinal plants
- fermented foods incl. apple cider vinegar, kefir etc
- acupuncture
- pre/probiotics
- homeopathic remedies
- Rescue Remedy® or other essences
- neem or other essential oils/products including Uddermint®
- physiotherapy/massage/chiropractic
- radionics or 'energy/distant' healing
- observation based methods eg Obsalim®, Cow Signals®

(The list above is not conclusive. If you have used a method, treatment or product that is not mentioned here, your knowledge and experience is important to us)

If YES, please proceed to the next question.

If NO, thank you for your interest but unfortunately you do not qualify for participation in this survey.

YES

NO



WHOLE HEALTH
AGRICULTURE

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3. Main Survey

Thank you for your participation - your time and input is much appreciated.

2. Firstly, please tick which **best** describes your role (tick one only):

Owner/Business partner/Manager

Employee/Freelancer/contractor

Family member/spouse/life partner

Other

If Other, please specify

3. Please give the COUNTY and POSTCODE, (if known), of the farm/s or smallholding/s where you are responsible for livestock (if outside the UK, please give state, area or region as applicable).

Farm 1

Farm 2

Farm 3

4. And for each of these farms or smallholdings, please indicate which type of system is used:

	Farm 1	Farm 2	Farm 3
Conventional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Organic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Biodynamic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uncertified Organic/Biodynamic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have ticked **other** - please specify

5. Please enter your usual/average yearly numbers for each livestock enterprise - if you are responsible for more than one farm please combine total numbers for each species:

Dairy Cows

Beef

Sheep

Goats

Poultry Meat

Poultry Layers

Pigs

Other: Please specify

Other: Please specify

6. Which of the following **best** applies to your livestock or the livestock for which you are responsible?

Please tick ONE option.

- Reared commercially for national supply chain
- Reared commercially for local supply
- Reared partly commercially, partly for home consumption
- Reared mainly or exclusively for home/family consumption
- If 'Other', please specify:

7. We'd like you to start thinking now about **specific** CAMs that you have used/use for livestock health.

Please tick all that you have used/use. *You must tick at least one option.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Herbs and medicinal plants, herbal leys, herbal wormers, tinctures | <input type="radio"/> Acupuncture/Acupressure/Shiatsu |
| <input type="radio"/> Homeopathic remedies including nosodes | <input type="radio"/> Bodywork: Physiotherapy/Massage/Chiropractic/Osteopathy |
| <input type="radio"/> Rescue Remedy® or similar essences eg Bach Flowers, Bush Flowers, Gem Essences etc | <input type="radio"/> OBSALIM® (diagnostic and feed adjustment method based on observation) |
| <input type="radio"/> Essential/Plant Oils (eg Tea Tree, Neem) and derived products, eg Uddermint® | <input type="radio"/> Cow Signals® (Behaviour analysis to prevent illness and disease) |
| <input type="radio"/> Pre/Probiotics | <input type="radio"/> Energetic Healing incl. Radionics, Reiki etc |
| <input type="radio"/> Fermented foods: eg grains, apple cider vinegar, kefir, LAB, etc | <input type="radio"/> Other - please specify below |

For OTHER please give details (you may mention more than one method/product)

8. How did you gain your knowledge/learn about the CAMs that you have just mentioned? (*Please tick all that apply*)

- Peers/colleagues/friends and family
- Courses and workshops
- Veterinary professionals
- Farming professionals/industry bodies etc
- Internet
- Books and magazines

Other (please specify as many as you need)

9. You selected '**Courses and Workshops**' at the previous question; please specify the the course/workshop and the CAMs taught.

Name of course & CAM	<input type="text"/>
Name of course & CAM	<input type="text"/>
Name of course & CAM	<input type="text"/>
Name of course & CAM	<input type="text"/>

10. Below are listed several approaches which farmers may take when incorporating CAMs into their livestock health management. **For each approach that applies to you please detail WHAT CAMs you use and HOW you apply them as comprehensively as possible.** *This is a really important question as it will help us build up a picture of what really works for farmers.*

Some examples:

- **Preventative & Maintenance:** You might use Homeopathic Nosodes aimed at controlling specific diseases, Herbal products to prevent worms, use OBSALIM® to optimise your feeding
- **Routine:** You might aim to prevent stress by using Aconite or Rescue Remedy before vet visits, or give Ignatia at weaning
- **Acutes:** You might use Colloidal Silver on wounds, give Arnica and Hypericum for de-horning, use Uddermint® cream for mastitis etc
- **Chronic:** You might use homeopathy for fertility, herbs for mobility etc

NB The text boxes are irritatingly small but they will expand to fit your answers. You might want to open a separate Word or Notepad document then copy and paste your answers when you are happy with them.

Preventative or

Maintenance:

eg to prevent disease (eg TB, Orf, parasites/flies) or maintain optimum health

Routine stresses or events:

eg weaning, de-horning, tail ringing, vet visits, foot trimming, etc

Acute/first aid:

eg injuries, infections, emergencies, birthing problems, wounds etc

Chronic:

ie recurrent or ongoing conditions such as 'bad joints/feet', chronic mastitis, infertility, allergies/COPD, etc

Other: SPECIFY

Other: SPECIFY

11. If you have any additional information about your use of CAMs for livestock health please enter it here.
The text box will expand to fit your answers.

12. How has learning and using CAMs influenced your farming practice? *Please tick all that apply*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved hygiene |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better attention to maintaining causes | <input type="checkbox"/> Conversion to organic or biodynamic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early intervention | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater attention to my animals' wellbeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More holistic approach to health management | <input type="checkbox"/> No change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better record keeping | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

13. Which of the following statements do you **agree** with? *Please tick all that apply.*

My use of CAMs has contributed to/resulted in

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved general health and wellbeing of livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced frequency or severity of mastitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower disease frequency and/or reduced severity of disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer incidences of milk withdrawal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher fertility rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer vet visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower cull rate/re-stocking rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Lower vet and medicine costs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher live birth rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Zero, low or reduced antibiotic usage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced frequency or severity of lameness | <input type="checkbox"/> Zero, low or reduced wormer usage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower cell counts | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased financial profitability of farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: you may also use this space to expand on your answers or to comment generally | |

14. Coming specifically to ANTIBIOTICS, have you ever been requested or compelled to reduce antibiotics usage for livestock? (eg vets, customers, abattoirs, supermarkets, industry bodies etc). *Please give details of **who** made the request and the **reason** for the request.*

15. Still thinking about **antibiotics**, please tick as many of the following statements that you agree with. **You may multi-select.** *If you do not agree with any statement, please TICK OTHER and give details.*

- Using CAMs has helped or enabled me to **reduce** antibiotics
- Using CAMs has helped or enabled me to maintain or achieve **low** usage of antibiotics
- Using CAMs has helped or enabled me to maintain or achieve **zero** antibiotic status or usage
- Other

Other - please explain

16. Below is a list of diseases, conditions or infections. Please tick all that you have **successfully** resolved with CAMs, ie where the animal has been returned to health **without** antibiotics. **TICK all that apply - you may select more than one CAM for each infection.** (NB There are 6 CAM's + OTHER - if you are on a tablet and cannot see all columns, use the slider)

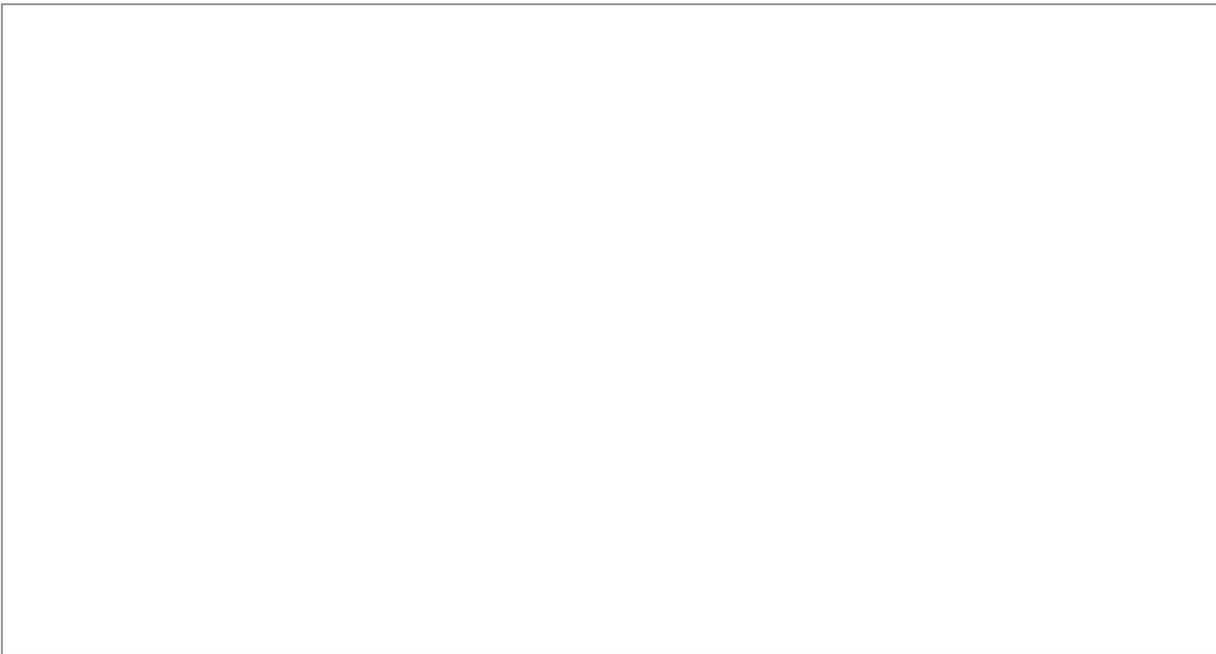
	Herbs/medicinal plants	Homeopathy (inc. nosodes)	Obsalim	Oils/Neem/Uddermint	Pre/Probiotics	Fermented Foods/vinegar	Other
Mastitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metritis/infected uterus/retained placenta	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respiratory/lung infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diarrhoea/Scours/gastric infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foot/digital/claw infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eye infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infected wound/skin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abscess/Fistula/Ulcer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify infection AND treatment)

17. For which diseases, infections or conditions have you experienced **the most impressive results** in terms of using CAMS to avoid or reduce antibiotics?



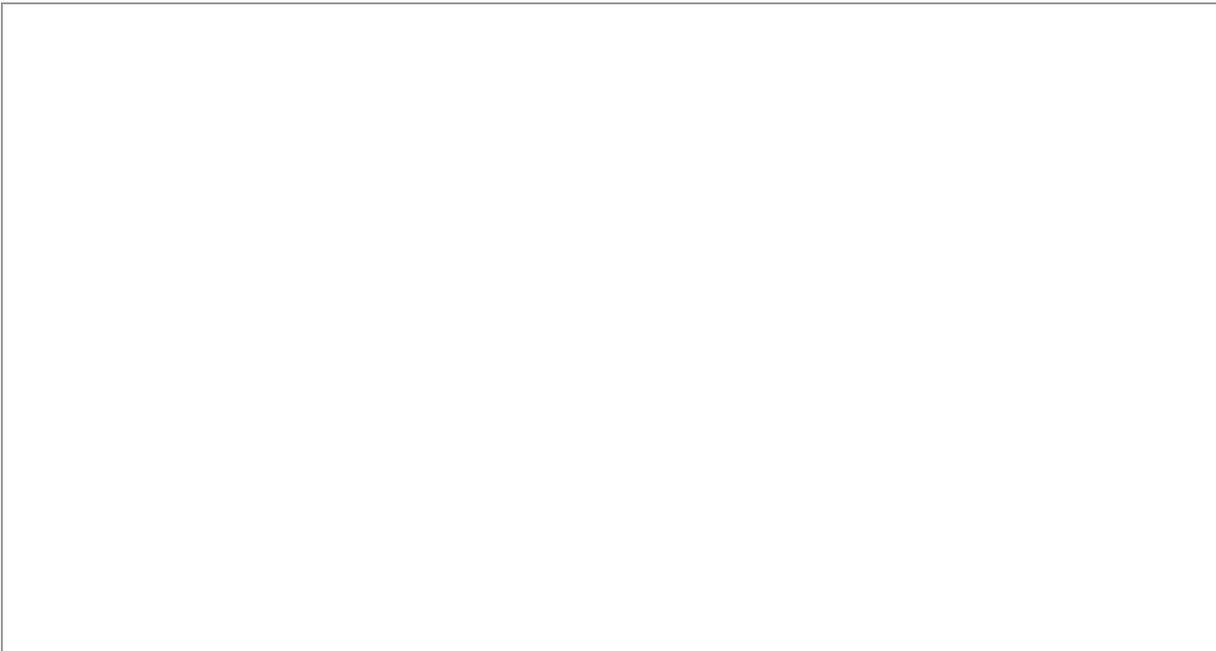
18. Please share any other **standout successes** or '**eureka/lightbulb**' moments you may have experienced during your use of CAMs . (*This can be to do with anything - ie not just restricted to farming*)



19. What has been your experience of the VETERINARY profession in support of your use of CAMs for your health management? *Please be specific.*



20. Finally, what advice would you give to other farmers with regard to using CAMs for livestock health management?



21. A sincere thank you - we appreciate you taking time out of your busy farming schedule to participate in this survey. We hope the results will enable us to evaluate the potential of CAMs to clean up the food chain and to refine or reduce the use of antibiotics and other 'environmentally unfriendly' interventions in livestock health.

Please enter your details to guarantee your copy of the final report AND confirm your entry into our draw to win one of 3 prizes of £250 towards an activity or investment to benefit your health or that of your livestock. The draw will take place on July 31st 2020.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>

22. If you have enjoyed this survey and would like to take part in a more in-depth interview/case study, please indicate YES/ NO to being contacted by email. (*If YES, please ensure you have confirmed your email address at Q21*)

- Yes
 No

23. The team at [Whole Health Ag.](#) hopes that you have enjoyed this survey and can see the value in what we are trying to achieve. We would love to stay in touch about our future developments and activities. However, if you do not wish to be contacted by us again, please check the box below to opt out of all future emails. You will still be notified of the **prize draw winner** and be **gifted a copy of the final report** as a thank you for your participation. To opt out entirely, please email secretary@wholehealthag.org.

OPT OUT

DOWNLOADED VERSIONS:

If you have completed this survey by digitally editing a downloaded version, please email your completed survey to: karen@wholehealthag.org.

If you have completed a paper copy of this survey, please post to :

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