



FARMERS VOICES

Farmers own words on how they achieve success with whole health strategies



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Mary has been in farming since the 1970's firstly with a conventional dairy herd and then certified as organic since 2002. It was her interest in herbs and homeopathy which led to her studying at the Irish School of Homeopathy, graduating in June 2017.

We asked Mary how a homeopathic approach can be applied to livestock:

One of the most important tools in homeopathy is observation and most farmers are great at this. You'll hear an Irish farmer say . . .

“That cow is gathered in herself and a bit of a blow on her

“That cow wants to stay in the shed and it's one of the loveliest sunny days that came



All of these observations help farmers in the choice of a remedy, although to get to the correct remedy more symptoms than this are needed to get the match right.

That bullock is lying in the dampest part of the field and when I put him up he is lame on the side he was lying on and just wanted to lie down again

He is a bit empty in himself, I couldn't see anything on him at the minute but I'll have a look at him again later on

That heifer was the quietest before calving and since calving she would go for you!

Some remedies can be used routinely and Mary gave us some examples.

Symptoms or Use

At the very first signs of Mastitis

Mastitis, at the first onset of curds in milk

For weaning/grief, loss of calf at birth

For retained placenta
Aconite 200c, Pulsatilla 30c

Retained placenta with foul smell add Pulsatilla also

#1 remedy for warts on teats

Only to be used when the animal is in labour. Aids easier calving in the case where the cervix/calf size may be an issue, or calving is slow.

For blood in milk after giving birth

Helps to dry up milk supply

Digestive problems, constipation, bloat

Various calf diarrhoea; Lots of remedies depending on the colour, odour etc'

Where an animal is exhausted and weak after loss of fluids due to diarrhoea

Gunky eye

Remedy & Potency

BBU; Belladonna, Bryonia & Urtica Urens combo 200c

SSC; Silicea, Sulphur & Carbo Veg combo 200c

Ignatia 30c or 200c

Aconite 200c, Pulsatilla 30c

Pyrogen 200c

Thuja 30c

Caulophyllum 200c

Ipecac or Phosphorus 30c

Urtica Urens 6c

Nux Vomica 30c

Arsenicum Alb, Verat, Merc, Podophyllum

China 30c

Euphrasia 30c

"This list just gives some indication of the various uses of a few remedies bearing in mind there are hundreds. All of these remedies are non toxic and in most cases, but not all, will eliminate the use of antibiotics."

As always....
If in any doubt....
Call your vet out!!

Mary recalls a case of a bull with an abscess on his hind quarters.

While herding my husband, Gerry, noticed a swelling on the bull's hind quarter. The bull himself was in great order and didn't seem to be bothered by it at all. The next day it was a bit bigger and bigger again the following day, but still not a bother to the bull.

Gerry brought him in the following morning to get a closer look at it. It was soft to touch, no heat in it and looked for all the world like an abscess. No other symptoms, good eyes, no lameness, no sign of temperature, eating and drinking normally. If there had been any of these symptoms, they would have been taken into account when deciding on a remedy and, if it looks like this or if any animal needs a vet, the vet is called without question.

Now is probably the most relevant time to mention that every Homeopathic remedy has a Materia Medica which lists the healing abilities (or picture) of each remedy. Silica is a great remedy for abscess formation on any part of the body and I felt it was the best choice at this stage. So I put 5 pills of Silica 30c into a spray bottle + 100mls of water + 10mls of vodka. This was sprayed on the bulls nose 3 times a day for 3 days. We kept him in a small paddock near the house so we didn't have to be bringing the animal in all the time.

Day 2; the abscess had come to a head and was oozing, the bull was carefully observed and seen to be very well.

Day 3; still oozing and animal very well.

Day 4; still oozing but reducing in size, animal very well, so at this point we discontinued the homeopathic remedy.

Day 5; oozing very little but reducing in size a lot.

Day 6; completely gone.

"I hope this inspires some farmers to have a go at trying this residue-free, effective system of medicine."