

A Year of Using Preventative Homeopathic Protocols on a Dairy Farm

by Pammy Riggs, Whole Health Agriculture certified Livestock Health Advisor

Summary

This study shows that through using a system of preventative homeopathy, a dairy farmer experienced a reduction in lameness, mastitis, and milk fever; lower somatic cell counts (SCCs), and an increase in milk production. A group of older cows (known as 'The Stragglers') that calved 6 months behind the block performed well without the predicted problems.

At the end of one year the farmer identified: reduced veterinary interventions, lower antibiotics and other medications, healthier cows, and a safer working environment.

Whilst one year of data is insufficient to declare long-term success, the initial results are highly promising .



Context

For a 12 month period dairy farmer Andrew, from North Devon, worked with WHAg Livestock Health Advisor, Pammy Riggs, to trial a system of preventative homeopathy with the hope of reducing antibiotics and improving health and resilience in his herd.

Farm: 230 acre conventional dairy farm

- 120 Friesian cows
- Block calving May-July
- Supplying a milk contract
- Grass-fed with in-parlour ration
- Grazed in summer, housed in winter
- Twice daily milking

Livestock Health Advisor: Pammy Riggs

- WHAg certified Livestock Health Advisor
- Proactive Prevention Protocols to reduce stressors throughout the farm year

Method

The farm's health problems and stress points were identified and recorded as a baseline. These included: birth, lactation, routine interventions such as disbudding, vet visits, weaning, separation and transportation. A bespoke protocol of preventative homeopathy was designed and administered through calf milk and the farm's water system, ensuring all livestock received preventative measures ahead of predictable stressors.

Findings

Compared to the previous 12 month period the farmer reported:

- **Reduced Usage of Antibiotics**
25% reduction in antibiotic usage
- **Reduced Somatic Cell Counts (SCC)**
National Milk Records showed a general downward trajectory of cell counts over the entire herd.
- **Reduced incidence of mastitis**
47% reduction in cases of mastitis
- **Reduced incidence of lameness**
17% lower cases of lameness.
- **Reduced incidence of milk fever**
80% fewer cases of milk fever with a corresponding reduction in calci-ject treatment.
- **Improved conception rates**
64% of the herd conceived to first service, compared to 51% in the previous 12 months.
- **Increase in milk production**
The National Milk Records for the farm show an increase in average milk yield of 284 litres per cow

'The Stragglers'

Due to their previous history, a group of eleven cows, out of sync with the herd by 6 months, were predicted to have calving problems. This group was mainly in their 5th to 8th lactation. All cows had live calves that went on to thrive. Just one calving needed intervention and one cow needed antibiotics. This group massively outperformed expectations particularly as they calved in winter.

Conclusion

Andrew is committed to working with Pammy for the future. Recently he hosted a Young Farmers event on his farm (see pic below) to share his experiences and showcase his results.



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Advisors

Whole Health Agriculture's (WHAg) certified Livestock Health Advisors are working farmers who offer practical, farm-tested guidance to help you prevent health problems from becoming full-blown issues. LHAs help you make confident decisions to improve herd health and, importantly, wellbeing and welfare.

Visit our webpage for more details on Livestock Health Advisors:

[WholeHealthAg.org/Learn/Advisors](https://www.wholehealthag.org/learn/advisors)

Pammy Riggs



Pammy Riggs is a Livestock Health Advisor specialising in dairy systems and proactive, preventative care. With decades of practical experience, she helps farmers improve herd health using Whole Health principles and practices – including homeopathy. Pammy's focus is on saving farmers time, stress, and money by building strong resilient animals.

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