

# Homeopathy for Livestock

A guide to our Top First Aid Remedies



WHOLE HEALTH  
AGRICULTURE

# Three Phase Model of Health

*This is a really simple and useful way of looking at health and disease which Whole Health Agriculture (WHAg) uses for all aspects of teaching and farmer support.*

## **Green Level**

This level is where you, the farmer, are the expert. And this is where you want things to be, ie happy healthy animals, good diet, good system of husbandry, just getting on with life.

Of course, it isn't always like this. Sometimes they end up in the:

## **Red Level**

Where there are signs of disease and illness. Here the animal is likely to need veterinary attention or intervention, eg accidents, emergencies and serious disease.

The key point is that, with the exception of accidents and emergencies, health never leaps from the Green to the Red. There is an in-between bit, the Amber.

## **Amber Level**

Here the animal's health is (going) out of balance: ie there are early warning signs that something is not quite right, - **OR** - we see ongoing chronic conditions such as infertility, lameness, and/or recurrent acute problems such as frequent mastitis.

To assess where we are we use a **Triage System**. Triage is the medical term for assessing patients to determine the urgency of the problem and what might need to be done. By applying this model to any problem, you can make effective and responsible choices for the animals in your care:

- **Red Level** – Always start here and consider 'Does this problem need veterinary attention?' **If it does, then call the vet.** Can you assist/treat the animal while waiting for the vet?
- **Red Flags** - If the problem does not (yet) require a vet, then put some Red Flags in place, so that you are prepared should things change - eg birthing problem. Can you assist/treat the animal while you are observing for changes?
- **Green Level** – After addressing the Red, always consider the Green to review your husbandry to see if any changes are needed. Are there any exciting or maintaining causes that need addressing?
- **Amber Level** – With all the above attended to, you can now look at all the Complementary and Alternative Methods and Medicines (CAM) available to you, such as homeopathy.

# 1. ACONITUM NAPELLUS (Aconite)

## Key Words

Sudden onset | Fear of Death | Fever | Inflammation

### Affinity

Arterial system, heart, sensory nerves, chest.

**Cause** – (the trigger/never been well since . . . )

- Sudden shock, fright or violence
- Becoming very cold
- Sudden exposure to cold weather
- Cold and/or dry winds

**Modality** - **Worse** < or **Better** > for

< shock, fright

< Midnight

< COLD DRY weather, east wind,

> open air

### Mind

- TERROR-Panic. **Behave as if they are going to die or be killed.** - Fight or flight state
- PANIC STATES: Sudden, violent. Like an internal earthquake.
- Possible perspiration, trembling, HYPERVENTILATION

### Generalities

- Over-sensitive to noise, light, touch
- Extreme excitability of nervous and vascular system (blood vessels)

### Physicals

- Any ACUTE inflammations ANYWHERE
- Mucous membranes hot and dry, chapped lips etc
- Nosebleeds; bright red blood
- THIRST for large quantities (cold water)
- Severe colic with panic, much rumbling, painful to touch,
- Cough, in early stages, rasping dry cough; after cold, dry wind
- Shortness of breath in COPD, from fright, in allergic reaction – CALL VET

Complementary to Arnica in shock and injury. Works well for any sort of ordeal where an animal may be afraid, eg shock, visits by the vet, TB testing etc. (For the farmer too!) Useful for first signs of fever or inflammation with sudden onset especially after exposure to cold winds.

## 2. ARNICA

### Key Words

Shock | Injury | Bruising | Over-Exertion

### Affinity

Venous system, blood

### Cause –(never been well since)

- Injury.
- Traum
- Physical shock.

### Modality - Worse < or Better > for

< Jarring or concussion

< touch

> Lying head low.

### Mind

- Stoical - although may be in shock

### Generalities

- Over-sensitive to noise, light, touch
- Extreme excitability of nervous and vascular system (blood vessels)

### Physicals

- BRUISES – No 1 remedy
- Jarring, concussion (eg feet on rough ground)
- Shock after injury or accident – works well with Aconite
- Stupor, unconsciousness
- For over-exertion
- Ailments during and after birth

Complementary to Aconite in shock. Followed well by Bellis Perennis (Daisy) in deep uterine bruising especially of lower back and pelvis. Especially useful following birthing interventions and for downer cows ( with HYPERICUM) or post-prolapse.

# 3. RHUS TOX

## Key Words

Rusty Gate | Stiffness

### Affinity

Fibrous tissues, ligaments, joints

### Cause –(never been well since)

- Over-exertion
- Onset of rheumatism or arthritis
- Cold wet weather

### Modality - Worse < or Better > for

< first movement > continued movement

< cold damp weather

< getting cold and wet

> warmth

### Mind

- Restlessness especially at night – must STRETCH and change position

### Generalities

- Painful stiffness

### Physicals

- Arthritic conditions - stiffness
- Sprains. Overexertion
- Bursitis. Tendonitis.
- Violent itching with blisters
- Complaints that come on with cold wet weather (or from getting cold and wet)

## 4. RUTA GRAVS

### Key Words

Tendons | Periosteum

### Affinity

Fibrous tissues, tendons, cartilage, ligaments, periosteum,

### Cause –(never been well since)

- - Repetitive strain injuries, over-exertion

### Modality - Worse < or Better > for

< movement

< cold dampness

> warmth

### Generalities

- Weakness and soreness

### Physicals

- Pain in back from wrenching, twisting, difficult births
- Tendon strain or sprain (with or without lameness)

Often needed with Rhus Tox in sprains/ strains to complete the cure.

Useful for animals that twist their spines - eg during difficult birth- downer cows (give with hypericum); or do the splits on the yard.

# 5. HYPERICUM

## Key Words

The Arnica of the nerves | Crush injuries | Puncture Wounds

### Affinity

Nerves, esp spinal, coccyx, tail

### Cause

–(never been well since)

- Nerve damage, falls, injuries to spine, amputation (tail ringing)

### Modality

- Worse < or Better > for

< touch, jar

< cold damp

### Generalities

- Shooting pains along nerves
- Neuralgia
- Prevents sepsis in puncture wounds
- Promotes healing of wounds in conjunction with Calendula (Hypercal)

### Physicals

- Crush injuries to parts rich in nerves, ears, tail, testicles!
- With Ledum can prevent ticks
- Painful horsefly bites
- Spinal pain after delivery

A favourite when given with Arnica for bruised wounds (especially good for farmers who have had their toes trodden on by half a ton of cow).

It partners Ledum for tick bites and painful horsefly bites and has a reputation for prevention of sepsis/tetanus in puncture wounds.

Specific with Calendula for jagged or 'crush' wounds - 'Hyper-Cal' wound cream/spray is a must for the medicine cabinet.

# 6. BELLADONNA

## Key Words

Swelling | Fever | Inflammation

### Affinity

Blood vessels, capillaries, circulation, head

### Cause

–(never been well since)

- Becoming over-heated, sunstroke, getting suddenly chilled when hot, (eg rainstorm)

### Modality - Worse < or Better > for

< overheated, heat of sun

< light

< noise

> rest, silence, darkness

### Mind

- Violent, intense
- Tendency to lash out, bite, kick
- Hallucinations

### Generalities

- Heat, redness, swelling
- Acuteness and violence – sudden onset (like Aconite)

- Inflammation anywhere in body
- High temperature with throbbing pulse
- Affected parts hot to touch

### Physicals

- Dilated pupils
- Hammering hot head – animal leans head against solid object
- Laminitis – No 1 remedy at first sign
- Mastitis - No 1 remedy in early stages (2nd is Aconite)
- Heatstroke

Belladonna can be used with Aconite for any sudden inflammation where a bounding pulse and burning heat/redness are present. It is essential for any animal that has got overheated, eg when travelling, out in the sun and for first signs of mastitis.

# 7. HEPAR SULPH (Calcium Sulphide)

## Key Words

'The Homeopathic Lance' | Pus | Abscess

### Affinity

Connective tissue, glands, nerves

### Cause

–(never been well since)

- Infection
- cold draughts
- cold winds

### Modality

- Worse < or Better > for

< touch

< pain

< cold – wind, winter, becoming cold

> warmth

### Mind

- Hypersensitive to touch, cold and pain
- Irritable

### Generalities

- Chilly – even in warm

### Physicals

- Infections ending in pus – ear, eye, sinus, throat etc
- Abscesses, boils, ulcers – Hepar draws them and eliminates pus
- Slight injuries suppurate
- Dry, raspy, hoarse cough after cold dry wind or draughts (when the condition has moved deeper than Aconite)

Ripens abscesses and draws pus. First remedy for foot rot. Acutely sensitive – cannot tolerate any pressure on the affected area, ie will be literally 'hopping lame'!

# 8. SILICA

## Key Words

Chronic Suppuration | Expulsion | Failure to Thrive

### Affinity

glands, 'tubes', mucous membranes, skin

**Cause** –(never been well since)

- Thorns
- Splinters
- Poor assimilation of nutrition

**Modality** - **Worse** < or **Better** > for

< cold

< from vaccination

> warmth

### Mind

- Yielding, shy, timid
- Refined, sensitive and delicate
- Passively stubborn'

### Generalities

- Needs to be warm – susceptible to ailments from the cold
- Recurrent infections
- Slowness of development and growth
- Failure to thrive' - poor assimilation of nutrition

### Physicals

- Poor healing – old abscesses, fistula, proud flesh, keloid scars
- Chronic infections – can't throw them off
- Slight injuries fester
- Glandular affections

Silica is slow and deep acting. It expels foreign matter from the body, eg splinters, thorns, necrotic tissue, old pus etc. Fantastic remedy to prevent granulation and proudflesh. Also excellent for 'weedy' youngsters who feed poorly and don't put on weight.

# 9. CAULOPHYLLUM

## Key Words

Weak or Irregular Contractions | Abortion | Retained Placenta

### Affinity

Female reproductive organs, rheumatism of small joints.

### Cause –(never been well since)

- Birthing  
Miscarriage

### Modality - Worse < or Better > for

- < pregnancy
- < open air
- < movement
- > warmth

### Mind

- Nervous, excitable.
- Fretful, irritable.

### Generalities

- Ailments during pregnancy, birthing and lactation.
- Nervous and excitable.
- Great weakness.

### Physicals

- Labour which does not progress
- Inadequate contractions during birth.
- Retained placenta
- Habitual miscarriage

Caulophyllum has an affinity for the uterus: regulates contractions - whether weak and ineffective or too rigid/spasmodic- eg ringwomb. Also useful for retained placenta and may prevent abortion.

# 10. ARSENICUM ALBUM

## Key Words

Anxiety | Restlessness | Burning Discharges

### Affinity

Mucous membranes, mind, blood, heart, digestion, respiration, skin

### Cause –(never been well since)

- Anxiety
- Poisoning

### Modality - Worse < or Better > for

< cold – drinks, food, air

< midnight

< infections

> heat, warmth, warm applications

### Mind

- Fear of being alone
- Anxious and restless

### Generalities

- Anxious, restless, can't be separated from companions
- Paralytic weakness
- Thirsty, but for sips (little and often)
- Discharges burn the hide
- Chilly – hates the winter, cold and wet

### Physicals

- Diarrhoea/scours
- Discharges which blister the skin or burn the hair
- Extreme weakness/collapse
- Pneumonia from cold wet weather with gasping breath and anxiety

Remedy of first choice for any suspected poisoning.

When death appears inevitable where the animal is in a state of collapse, especially if fever or infection is present. Arsenicum is the number 1 remedy in scours especially after/during cold, wet conditions.

Brilliant when used with Aconite and Arg Nit. before any 'ordeal' such as TB testing, transportation to slaughter.

# 11. IGNATIA

## Key Words

Grief | Broken Hearted | Spasm

### Affinity

Mind, nervous system, muscles

### Cause

–(never been well since)

- Emotional shock
- Grief,
- Bereavement.

### Modality

- Worse < or Better > for

< loss, grief

< emotional shock/fright

< company/consolation

### Mind

- Contradictory
- Silent and withdrawn OR:
- Angry and inconsolable

### Generalities

- Inconsolable
- Refuses to eat - pines
- Sighing
- Spasms and constrictions, esp throat, back muscles

### Physicals

- Hiccoughs
- Inability to swallow
- Muscle spasms/twitches

No 1 for separation anxiety. The need for Ignatia is almost exclusively brought on by grief or loss and animals needing Ignatia can have contradictory symptoms so any change anywhere since the shock/grief needs noting.

Essential during the weaning or separating process for dams and offspring, or when moving or selling on livestock.

# 12. PULSATILLA

## Key Words

Youngstock | Hormonal Imbalance | Changeable

### Affinity

Female hormones, Female reproductive organs.

### Cause

-(never been well since)

- Hormonal imbalance
- Separation from dam or close companion
- Puberty

### Modality

- **Worse** < or **Better** > for

< Worse for stuffy airless conditions

< Worse for standing in wet conditions

< Worse separation from dam or companions

< Worse being alone.

> Better fresh air/being outside

### Mind

- Affectionate, mild, timid but can be flighty and temperamental
- Usually submissive - 'needy' for company
- Changeable mood ('hormonal')

### Generalities

- Changeable, shifting symptoms - one thing after another
- Chilly yet intolerant of heat
- Thirstless
- Profuse, thick, bland, yellow-green discharges

### Physicals

- Pneumonia in youngstock following separation
- Respiratory conditions with discharge - thick- yellow, greenish.
- Eye infections – Pink eye, conjunctivitis with yellow, bland discharges.
- Malposition of foetus.
- Contractions too weak or slowing.
- Retained placenta.

This is the No. 1 youngstock remedy, especially following separation. Wonderful for flighty heifers and maidens to regulate hormones.