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Nov 9, 2010

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS FOR OUR COWS

The health of our cows is the top priority on our farms. Organic systems – like those followed at Yeo Valley – include a proactive approach to animal welfare and are designed to minimise stress on livestock that might result in illness; the routine use of antibiotics as a preventative measure to treat our cows' ailments is not permitted.

As a result of this Steve, the Herd Manager on one of our farms began investigating alternative options to the use of antibiotics and began studying a course on homeopathic treatments.



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Since then, Steve has been implementing what he has learnt by using homeopathic treatments and remedies to treat his cows for a number of issues, including warding-off flies and easing the cows' stress levels when having their feet clipped. The treatments have so far proved successful and, unlike with antibiotics, cows don't build up immunity to these remedies. In fact, they encourage the cows' immune systems to fight bugs themselves.

The use of homeopathic treatments not only helps to develop a more robust immune system, it also means no withdrawal periods for milk and meat while the animal is being treated, as would be the case when antibiotics are used.

However, this doesn't mean we completely avoid more conventional treatments; if we need to treat an animal quickly and effectively we will always choose the treatment, either conventional or alternative, that will be most beneficial to the cow to aid its recovery and this may involve antibiotic use.



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Steve's convinced that homeopathic treatments offer a viable, practical option so he continues to favour treating his herd homeopathically whenever appropriate.

To find out more, contact us on our Facebook page, @yeovalley on Twitter or email Sally at sally@yeovalleyorganic.co.uk.

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