

## Alternative Medicine for Ruminants

Notes from the 2001 ACRES  
Conference Presentation with  
Paul Detloff, DVM  
By Lisa McCrory

Dr. Detloff's mottos:

"Don't give a cow anything that you  
wouldn't eat or drink yourself or in-  
ject into your daughters leg"

"What happens in the rumen shows  
up 6 months later in the hoof"

### Calf Diarrhea and Scours:

Scours colors:

Greenish-greyish = cryptosporidia

Bright yellow = E. coli

Dark, smelly = salmonella

Cryptosporidia may result in bloody  
discharge at about 2 weeks of age.

One remedy is *Calf Shield* product  
from Crystal Creek which is good for  
E. coli, coccidiosis and Salmonella  
scours.

Recommendations: when  
feeding the calf milk, do not feed on  
the floor. It is best to reflect the sce-  
nario of a calf drinking from its  
mother. Keep the esophagus horizon-  
tal; if feeding from a pail, lift it at  
least 6 inches.

### Calf Pneumonia:

Offer the animal support that  
will provide nutritional compounds  
that will enhance immune system  
response such as aloe juice, whey  
products, homeopathy, plus ingredi-  
ents necessary in providing relief to  
the pulmonary system. Ingredients  
included in Crystal Creek's *Respira-  
tory Purge*, include Wild Cherry  
Bark, Mullein Leaf, Horehound and  
Coltsfoot.

### Immune stimulants:

—Aloe vera – has the ability to over-  
ride cortisol (fight or flight mecha-  
nism) so that the immune system  
does not get compromised in times  
of stress.

—Echinacea – don't use this all the  
time, but only at times of need. Dr  
Detloff often infuses uteruses with  
this.

—Idaphos – good for tying up am-  
monia and makes an available form  
of Nitrogen to use on the field. Ap-  
ply in areas where water collects and  
ammonia gas is prevalent.

—Tri-Biotic – garlic, eucalyptus and  
goldenseal

—Anti-oxidants –The essential oil  
tinctures containing Vitamin C that  
he uses are Red clover, Rose hips,  
Chapparel, and Echinacea.

### Retained Placenta:

1) Spend no more than a minute to  
remove the placenta from the cow  
after calving. If it does not want to  
come out then proceed with the fol-  
lowing protocol:

2) 2) Infuse the cow with 500cc of  
a solution containing 150cc aloe vera  
juice, plus 350cc clean water, plus  
3cc to 5cc of Uterine Blend. (Uterine  
Blend contains garlic, caulophyllum,  
golden seal and comfrey.) For se-  
vere infections increase Uterine  
Blend to 12cc in the solution. For  
cows that have twins, infuse with  
1000cc of this solution. Infuse once  
a day for the first five days postpar-  
tum with this volume. After 5 days  
reduce the volume of infusion and  
consider going to straight aloe vera  
juice.

3) When infusing cows that are  
more than 5 days postpartum, use  
aloe vera juice and Uterine Blend  
without water dilution. Infuse with  
approx. 140cc once a day.

4) Other option: If Uterine Blend is  
not on hand, add 2cc to 5cc of garlic  
tincture to the infusion mixture. If  
using homeopathy caulophyllum,  
administer 10 to 12 pills 2 - 3 inches  
into the vulva after infusing with  
aloe juice. If using a caulophyllum  
tincture, administer vaginally also  
after aloe infusion. For those pro-  
ducers who like to use a uterine bo-

lus, administer two uterine boluses  
into the uterus on day one after calv-  
ing and then follow the above proto-  
col on top of the capsules. Uterine  
boluses are generally used only for  
one day.

5) Infuse every day until discharge  
looks good. Check discharge on day  
21 post calving and if not good, in-  
fuse until it improves. You want to  
have a nice clear discharge at 21  
days. If you are in doubt, infuse the  
cow. If after 6 days you have a pud-  
dle of dark red blood, that's okay –  
that's *Lochia* and a sign that the  
uterus is shrinking down.

### Udder Edema:

It's okay to premilk the cow. Warm  
water and massage will increase the  
blood supply to the udder and then a  
liniment can be applied. A homeo-  
pathic remedy that works for this  
kind of swelling is *Apis Mel*. Herbs  
that reduce inflammation are Kelp,  
cayenne, juniper berries, and parsley.  
If there is a lot of udder edema in the  
herd, it is important to look at the dry  
cow ration and look at potassium.  
Look at soil and balance the cations.  
It is important to know the Potas-  
sium, Magnesium and Calcium lev-  
els. A Calcium shortage in the soils  
can create the greatest animal health  
problems. What you want to find is  
a 1:1 Calcium: Potassium ratio in a  
dry cow ration.

### Nerve Injuries:

50% of the cows suffering from  
nerve injuries don't get up. One test  
to do with a down cow is to poke the  
cow with a pitch fork around the fet-  
lock. If the animal flinches, then it is  
worth trying to get her up with the  
following suggested treatments. A  
good pain killer is St John's Wart  
and the homeopathic *Apis Mel*. If  
the cow does not respond to treat-  
ment within 12 hours, or does not  
flinch to the pitchfork test, then you  
should 'turn her into beef'.

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### **Mastitis and High Somatic Cell Count:**

Dr Detloff is not interested in the type of bug that is infecting the quarter, he wants to address the immune system which always starts from the soil up. It is important to know your cows and know your genetics; you want to be managing your whole ecosystem (your farm).

-Use IMPRO products that are approved for organic use or use a colostrum whey product. Give 300 cc drench of aloe vera and echinacea for the immune system. You want her to fight the bug herself.

Goldenseal, eucalyptus and garlic tincture – use this *tri-antibiotic*, 3cc in the vulva every 6 hours

-Antioxidant whenever you have massive tissue damage (i.e. – hot udder). Inject Vitamin C or other *antioxidant remedy*

-Put liniment on the udder

-Homeopathic remedy – suggests *Phytolacca* or *Bryonia*

-35% Hydrogen peroxide in the vein sometimes for serious cases. He puts 20-30 cc of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in a bottle of glucose and give as an IV. Dr Detloff has turned around a couple of gangrenous udders with this treatment.

B Vitamins in the tail vein

### **Vaccinations:**

Dr Detloff has backed off on Vaccines. For a healthy, grass based farm, he has resorted to only two vaccines: Lepto-5 and Black leg for youngstock.

### **Bruise with swelling:**

Arnica, Apis mel and liniment are the best treatments for bruises. He showed a slide of a leg injury that got infected. The treatment was to create a poultice using comfrey, valarian root, and munion leaf. Soak

this poultice with aloe vera and wrap it. He also followed up with their product called *Wound Spray* which contains aloe vera, comfrey (which is a knitting herb) and garlic. *Wound Spray* is also good for treating **pink eye**. To treat pink eye, spray in the eye as often as you can. It is also good to feed 20 ounces of aloe pellets to kick in the immune system.

### **Ketosis:**

Ketosis occurs due to a negative energy state. The cow starts to metabolize her body fat and protein and releases ketones. Ketosis results in liver stress and you need to increase the sugar. Treatments that Dr Detloff recommends are:

-IV glucose

-Homeopathic remedy *lycopodium*

-*Wellness tonic* that contains echinacea, burdock root, and aloe vera

### **Left Sided Displaced Abomasum:**

This is usually secondary to a primary problem. The rumen shrinks as a result of ketosis or a calcium deficiency. For treatment, Dr Detloff will roll the cow over (bringing the abomasum back) and will then give the cow a calcium drench every 12 hours for 3 days. He will also put the cow on long-stemmed hay

### **Milk Fever:**

There are two kinds of milk fever. If you have an **Alert Downer**, you have a soil problem (cations screwed up). Give the cow one bottle of glucose, 1 bottle of Calcium, and get the cow off cement. Get a 1:1 calcium carbonate mineral and make it available to the cow (and see if she eats it up) then follow up with a calcium pill. A **Metabolic Calcium milk fever** is down, groggy, and is suffering from hypocalcemia. You will get a very fast response with 1-2 bottles of Calcium.

*Paul Dettloff has specialized in bio-*

*logical care of livestock since the mid-1990's. He operates Dr Paul's Lab and is co-founder of Crystal Creek, a firm that provides natural veterinary supplies and remedies. 1-888-376-6777*