



# Canadian Organic Growers

Canadian Organic Growers promotes organic growing  
in order to build healthy local communities and ecosystems

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## COG Reference Series

### #5 – Alternatives to Medication for Dairy Cattle

*Talk given by Daniel Lapoint at Ecological Farming Day, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1989*

#### **Cows**

##### **Placenta retention**

- Give her a quiet place.
- Hot water to drink.
- Rub hocks and backs (point 48) with absorbine or clay cream

##### **Mastitis**

- 80% cases caused because uterus not cleaned out well, appears up to 60 days after calving, generally found in back quarters first.
- Clean out uterus (see placenta retentions.)
- Rub udder with clay cream at each milking until milk looks right. Clay cream is made from dry clay powder and cold pressed olive oil.
- Milk often until bag stays slippery (4x a day)
- Give 100gm dry clay in the meal, morning and night.

##### **Worms and parasites**

- Use a pasture rotation system of 14 to 21 days. Pasture rotation or strip grazing also allow more efficient use of pastures
- Feed 100 gm clay each day for 7 days OR feed 100 gm charcoal for 7 days OR feed 100 gm charcoal or clay the third day after the new born OR one bulb of garlic every 7 days OR four drop of Eucalyptus oil on loin or not

##### **Foot Rot**

- Clay cream with zinc or copper sulphate added.

##### **Uterus infections**

- Insert clay cream or mix of hot water, clay and juice of ¼ lemon.

##### **Washing Milking Systems**

- It is important to cut the amount of soap being used and added to manure piles. Therefore;
- Rinse 2x with hot water and then use 25% of soap normally used
- Acid: use apple cider vinegar

- Sterilization: 3% hydrogen peroxide – 1 cap in 2 litres.

##### **Bag Washer**

- 3 gallons hot water, 1 drop pine oil, 1 cap peroxide and 1 ounce of clay for slippery product.

##### **Tip dip**

- 5cc each of lavender and pine oil, 2cc eucalyptus oil, 12 cc Twin 80 or cotton oil (from pharmacy), 5cc methyl blue for colour and 4 litres of water. Cost \$4.00

##### **To Dry a Cow**

- Cut water available, fed poor quality hay.
- Give charcoal twice a day. Give cow 4 drops a day of sage or menthol oil

##### **Milk Fever**

- This has to do with the relationship between man and herd.
- If a cow is up and eating feed 25 gm chloride of magnesium or 50gm in the rectum is she is down or 100cc of vet product (Maglucal Plus is one) injected under the skin (rather than directly into blood).

##### **Difficult Calving**

- 4 drops of clove oil on a piece of bread. Bolus into stomach (don't let her taste it, very bad taste).

##### **Slow of Light Eating**

- 4 ounce unpasteurized honey 2x a day for 3 days.
- Rub point 40 (where hair swirls) the more you rub the more she'll eat

##### **Breeding Troubles**

- Bring a bull back into the barn.

##### **Acupuncture**

- Read and learn about the acupuncture point for a variety of things. Some of these points can be

dangerous if used by someone who does not know what they are doing.

**Sprouting or Germination**

- Sprout the oats that are to be fed for a cut in the cost of grain. 1kg of oats will give you 2kg after 6 days of germination: 250% increase in energy
- Soak grain 24 hours.
- Next day add a drop of clay and then drain water.
- For next 4 days rinse grain each day until sprouts 2cm long. Then rinse. The water is good for calves

**Fly Control**

- Spray cedar oil on walls and floor.
- Use Borax, 1 lb in 1 gal water, on manure pile and in gutter.
- Mix clay with lime to avoid attracting flies.
- Attract swallows

**Clay**

- Use cheapest quality from health food stores

**Calves**

**For Health**

- No vaccinations, no injections

**Feed**

- Milk up to 3 months of age
- 1 Kg of meal, good hay and water
- No silage before 6 month (causes salivation problems).

**Scours**

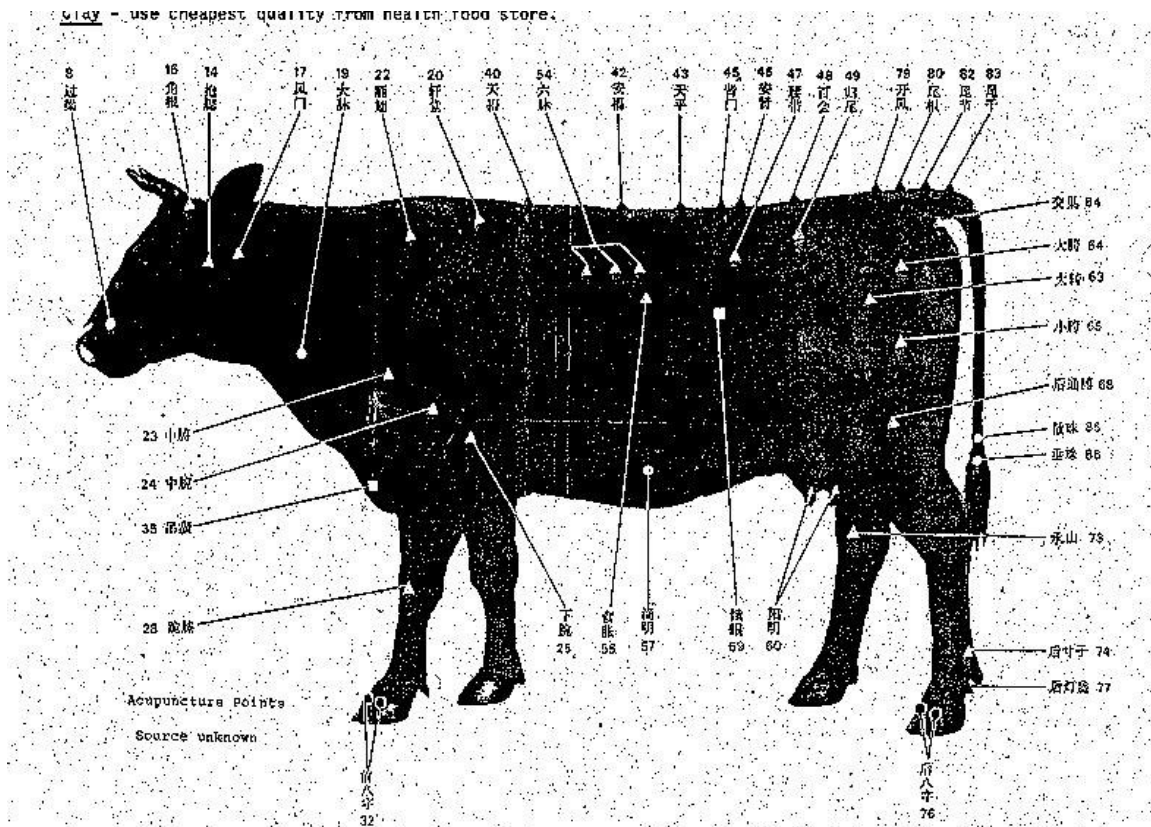
- Feed 25gm of clay, 125 gm yogurt, 1 cup oatmeal cooked in milk.

**Selenium deficiency**

- Feed oat sprouts, western wheat, barley hops.

**Pneumonia**

- Feed yogurt, cod liver oil (Vit A&D)
- Place calf under brooder or pig lamp with infrared bulb



Updated by COG, 1989.

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