



Herd Health Bulletin

Forgotten Therapies

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During my past 35 years of veterinary practice I've seen lots of ideas, treatments, drugs and mind-sets come and go. Antibiotic over-use, drug over-dosing and shotgun therapies when nothing else works. I've seen it all and unfortunately participated in the program for close to 25 years. I began to question where conventional dairying and conventional veterinary medicine was going about 10 years ago. It seemed we got so scientific and technical that we left our grass roots common sense out in the wind. I see two concepts that the veterinary profession has totally missed and which I use daily with success in my treatments. It's logical that veterinarians would miss this as we've been trained to be bug killers and vaccinators.

These two areas that I have come to recognize are antioxidant therapy and immune system stimulation.

- 1) Antioxidant therapy is needed whenever one has an animal with tissue destruction (cellular destruction and rupturing), or foreign debris and cellular material misplaced in the body. This will occur simultaneously with high fever, infections like toxic mastitis, toxic uterus, respiratory problems as well as peritonitis. An anti-oxidant will help with the removal of dead cells, helps with the phagocytosis (where macrophages/white blood cells protect and clean out foreign material) and also helps the lymphatics clean up debris. It's like dumping a can of "Heet" into the gas tank to absorb the water in the gas. It removes the bad stuff from the system. Anytime you encounter an infection, the body needs an antioxidant. I have three favorite antioxidants.
 - a) Vitamin C: Vitamin C administered either as an injectable or orally is a potent antioxidant with approximately a 4 hour period of activity in the body. Because of its short duration of activity it can be given multiple times each day. Injectable vitamin C is a prescription item and I use it IM or IV.
 - b) Hydrogen Peroxide: Hydrogen peroxide can be used in the water at a standard rate of 25ppm. I have one client that has it hooked onto his well and runs it through the entire farm, including the house. This approach is intended as a preventative application that I see more use for in the future as we get more organic.
 - c) Dr. Paul's Antioxidant Blend: This is a powerful new product containing a blend of four antioxidant tinctures of rose hips, Echinacea, red clover and chaparral. The Echinacea, besides being an antioxidant, also stimulates the immune system. This product comes in a 4 oz (120cc) bottle. The method of application is to use a 3cc syringe with a 2" pipette on the end, for delivery into the vulva, or orally (the product and syringes are available at Crystal Creek).

The vulva is a dynamic organ of absorption due to its highly vascularized membrane. Orally, I give it under the tongue, especially in young stock. For males I find it easier to find the mouth. The treatment should be repeated every 4 to 6 hours. You won't be treating too often. Remember in a hot toxic infection the blood and lymphatic systems are probably being flooded very early with toxins, so hit them often initially. Many cows with high fevers will

be off feed also. There are also a lot of cows that are marginally low on blood calcium when they are milking hard. Because of these commonly found multiple issue situations, I don't hesitate to drench the cow with Crystal Creek's Safe Cal- drench or to use the Fresh-n-Easy Cow Capsules when I use the antioxidant blend to address calcium deficiency. For off-feed situations I will give antioxidant blend along with Super Boost Cow Capsules or along with Keto-Care drench. Guess what Crystal Creek loaded into these products, yes, high levels of vitamin C. I can't believe more calcium and appetite products don't have vitamin C in them, it's so logical.

Immune system stimulation is an area that has been completely ignored by the veterinary profession because of a lack of tools provided by the drug companies. The immune system has only been used by the vaccine makers to get increased titers. I look upon the immune system as the bodies major defense against disease in its natural state for protection and prevention. The utopia situation would be to have an excellent immune system that handles infection and challenges itself. I do see a difference in immune systems on the farms I call on and it goes back to balanced high forage diets from balanced healthy soils. There is a direct correlation between having a balanced soil, resulting in nutrient rich forages and having a small vet bill.

The two immune system supports that I really like are aloe vera and Echinacea. Crystal Creek provides aloe vera in a pelleted form and in a liquid form. Both are used orally at typical daily doses of 4 to 16oz of pellets during peak needs, or 2 to 4 oz of pellets for prevention; and with the liquid aloe juice I drench with 300cc (10oz.) orally and I like it repeated twice daily. During times of major stress an animal's system will produce stress hormones, one of which is cortisol. This is one of the fight or flight hormones that will virtually shut down the immune system. At calving, or lambing, or kidding the cortisol remains high for 2 to 3 weeks post partum and so to then the immune system is significantly compromised. This would be an excellent opportunity to apply antioxidants and immune boosters. Aloe vera contains natural substances that override the negative affects of cortisol and stimulates good immune function.

I also like Echinacea as a complimentary support to aloe vera as it can give the immune system a quicker, higher impulse. However, Echinacea is not meant for long-term use. Echinacea tincture and aloe vera go together like Hershey's chocolate and ice cream. I use 2 to 3cc of Echinacea tincture in the vulva, or under the tongue. Parlor people like this also because cows today are not as head friendly so the vulva dosing is easier. Crystal Creek markets Dr. Paul's Echinacea tincture in a 2 Oz. and 8 oz. Bottle.

As I see it, when the conventional world comes in with their synthetic antibiotic to kill the bug, they only have 1/3 of the job done. The biological/organic producer can use their natural antibiotic, use an antioxidant and use immune stimulant to help. This is a more balanced and natural approach with more tools, to help nature heal. There is no resistance, no dumping of non-natural molecules into the food chain and no withholding. Remember, the microbe is secondary, the terrain is everything.