

## Dear Jim

### Answering Your Alternative Healthcare Questions: Herpes on Teats



*Could you please tell me how to organically treat herpes on heifers? We've had a high number of heifers freshening with herpes on one or two teat ends. No cows, however. Five years ago we had the same problem, but it went away just as mysteriously. And yes, I believe it was winter then, too. What can we do to prevent this?*

In cases where the sores develop on teat ends, the best approaches we found were pre and post dipping the teats with aloe vera juice. When herpes is present, it is wise to try to build up the immune system in order to strengthen the epithelial mucosa cells on the teats. We use Vitamin A, D & E supplements or injectable sources along with vitamin B complex. The herbals we use to help strengthen the heifers immune system in these cases are Pau' D Arco, Echinacea, Myrrh and Cayenne orally while also applying Tea Tree Oil and Vitamin E oil (1 part to 5 parts) directly to the teats. Historically, Pau' D Arco has great virus inhibiting abilities.

Nutritional assistance can be obtained by storing up red clover baleage or hay. This fed in the late winter months, i.e. February/ March when the UV rays from the sun are at their lowest power and moisture is most abundant, helps to keep the stresses of viral and fungal infections to a minimum. Red clover acts as a blood cleanser and a detergent to help make the animals' livers work more efficiently and in turn boost their immune systems. As always, the heifers environment must be kept clean and dry for best results, and be sure that the products that you use on your animals are acceptable to your certifier before commencing treatment.

*Jim and Nancy Gardiner operate a certified organic dairy farm along with their three youngest children in Otselic, NY Over the last fourteen years, they have worked at finding alternatives to medications through the use of vitamins, minerals and herbal foods to help their livestock recover from 'dis-ease'. If you have question you would like Jim to address, the deadline for submission for the August issue is July 15th. Jim & Nancy Gardiner,  
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