

# Experiences with 20 years of mastitis control in large scale dairy farming in the Netherlands



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# Introduction

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- Erna Post
- Veterinary practitioner DAP Olst-Wijhe sinds 1999
- Inspired in India (Ethno Veterinary Medicine)
- Participant in projects VKON / PNV (NLF-Netherlands)



# Mastitis in the Netherlands

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- (Still) one of the biggest economic health problems
- Percentage mastitis 10-35% on average Dutch farm
- Definition of mastitis ?
- Most antibiotics on dairy farms used for udder health



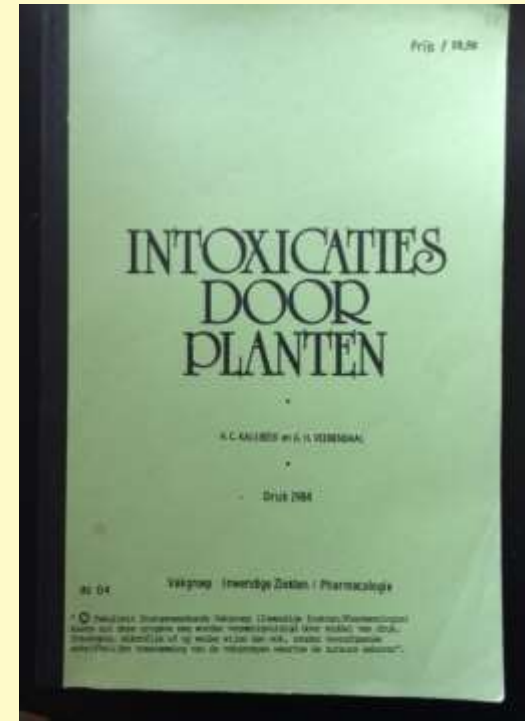
# Changes en challenges in dairy farming Netherlands

- 2009 WHO: reducing use of antibiotics for animals
- Use of antibiotics to **prevent** animal disease is prohibited
- Regulation of antibiotic use per kg of animal weight
- Prohibited to use 3rd choice antibiotics (fluroquinolones, 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporines)
- Benchmark antibiotic use by farmers and vets
- Antibiotic use on farm too high? Farmer and vet responsible for farm come together and make plan for decreased use



**So: more focus on mastitis prevention**

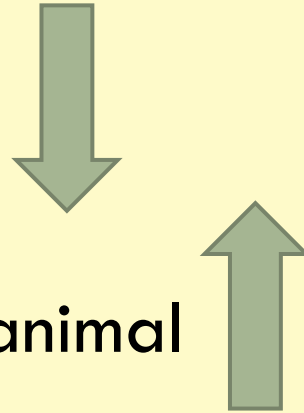
# Also: Dutch farmers search for using natural products



But: general lack of knowledge on the topic  
Most information on the toxicity of plants ...

# Strategy mastitis prevention:

<sup>6</sup> Lower the risk of infection  
&  
Increase resistance of the animal



# Lowering the risk of infection:

- 7  Hygiene of udder/ tail/ feet/ surrounding of the cow
- Excellent milking materials and technique
- Know which cow has an infection
- Prevention of spreading infection → wear gloves



# Bedding material.....

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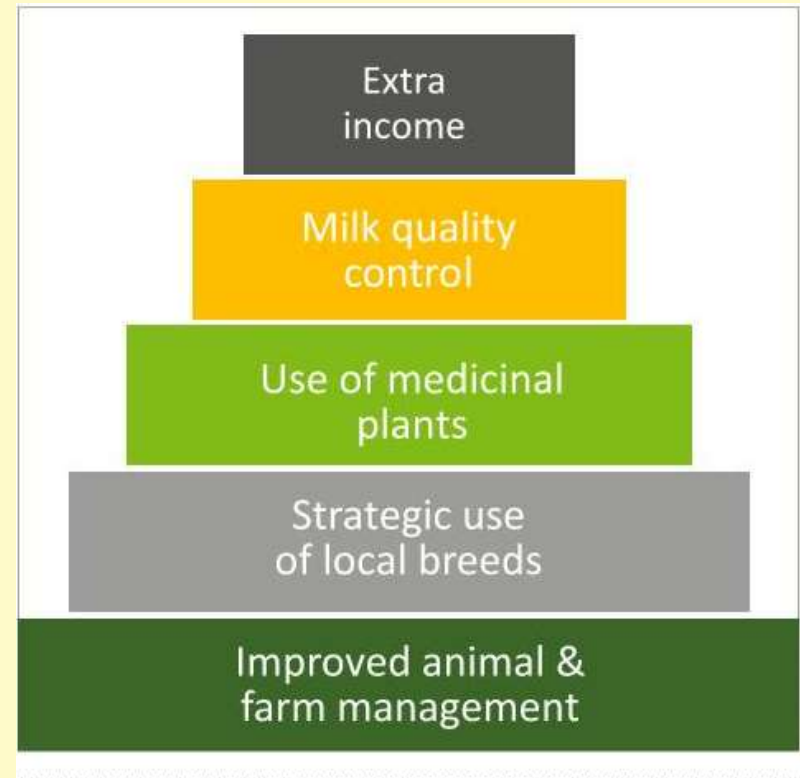
# Increase resilience of the cow

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- Excellent cow management & the right feeding!
- Also part of the NLF 5-layer strategy
- Antibiotics effect on



- **Microbiome**



# Instead of use of chemicals - search for natural way of treating animals & prevention of disease

- In pasture: what is the effect of herbs in grassland on the health of the soil and the health of the cow?



# Self medication

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- Animals know what they need to remain healthy – if they get access to the resources



# Natural products used to prevent or cure mastitis

- **Oral** - Several boli based on Garlic, Kurkuma, Vit E
- **Local treatment** - Udder balm with: Caipan, Aloë Vera, Peppermint
- **Injectors** - Masti vexyn, homeopathic mastitis injectors
- **Homeopathic injections** - Immunolon, Pyrogenium



# What is needed now:

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- Regulation of natural supplements and products
  - More scientific research on effect of natural products
  - Scientific reports on effect of herbs in pastures on cattle health
  - Increase experience of veterinarians and farmers



# Between 2009-2016:

<sup>14</sup>  
70% antibiotic reduction over  
all livestock species !!!!

## Antibiotic reduction dairy

Defined daily dosis animal  
reduced from

6,5 (2010) to 3,5 (2020)

**Reduction: 46,2%**



***THANK YOU!***