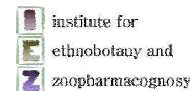


Guides for farmers to keep their animals healthy with herbs and other natural products

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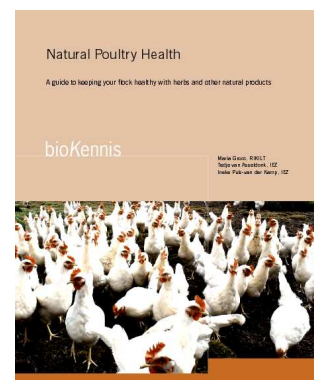
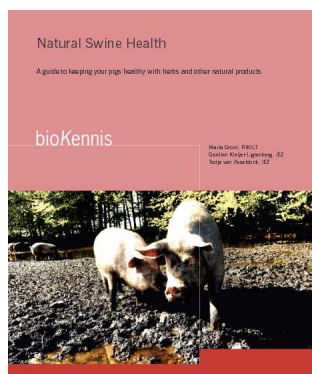
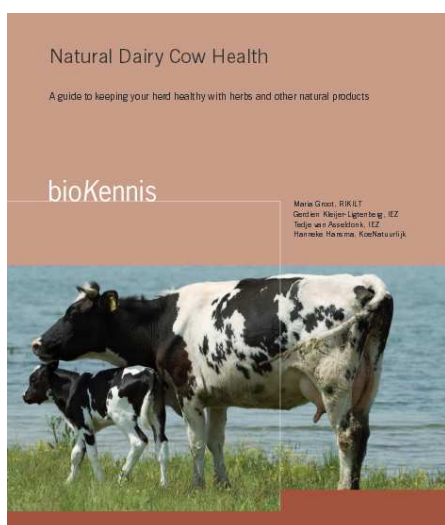


Introduction

The project Naturally Healthy, performed for the Dutch Ministry of Economic affairs, focuses on the implementation of husbandry management systems that can reduce the necessity of supplying antibiotics. In this regard the use of herbs and other natural products can be an important and innovative tool to keep the animals healthy. Guides for farmers were made for the use of these natural products in the context of animal health management on the farm.

Aim

These books are intended to guide farmers through the supply of herbals and other natural products on offer. The aim is to support disease and problem prevention by using natural products. Moreover they inform the veterinarian about the possibilities of herbal products.



Methods

Information was obtained from producers of natural products and from farmers which use these products. Regarding the products in the guides the composition was given to RIKILT-Wageningen UR (in some cases confidentially). Information about the use of the products had to be substantiated with data from experimental and/or field trials. If there was only the experience in the farmers practice, this is declared in the text.

These guides provide information on suitable management measures for a number of health issues depending on the life cycle of the animal. For each condition general information on herbs that can be used in these situations is provided. In a table the available products, their application, composition, use and supplier is listed.

Results

Guides were made for dairy cattle, swine and poultry in 2009 and updated 2011. The Dutch guides for dairy cattle, swine and poultry were translated to English in 2011. At this moment (2014) the guides for poultry and swine are updated and a new guide is made for veal calves. We hope that in time these can also be translated and made available for a broader public.

The guides were originally intended for organic farmers but the updated versions are adapted so they can also be used by conventional farmers. This to help them in process of reducing the use of antibiotics for farm management and to prevent the induction of antibiotic resistance.

- The guides promote safe and rational use of natural products.
- Products must be available in the Netherlands
- Short chapters, plain language (understandable for farmers),
- Management comes first.
- In a farm animal's life cycle certain periods or moments are naturally stressful (transition periods), as can be external factors. For each period is stated what natural products can add to the most efficient management measures to promote animal health.

References

The guides can be downloaded as pdf file at:

- http://www.fyto-v.nl/docs/sb_dairy.pdf
- http://www.fyto-v.nl/docs/sb_pigs.pdf
- http://www.fyto-v.nl/docs/sb_poultry.pdf

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