

## Healthy Animals

*“The numbers really tell the story. Feeding calves milk for longer and getting them on to good grass ahead of the cows makes a real difference to the quality of stock that are the future of the farm.”* (Taranaki farmer Stephen Fleming)

*“Finding common elements for mastitis management was not so straight forward, but we found that the three farms that had the lowest somatic cell counts had one common factor – the cows' teats were all in excellent condition.....I find it quite satisfying working with organic farmers because they are keen to have preventive programmes in place.”* (Dairy medicine specialist Alan Thatcher)

### **Key findings**

Dairy cows suffer from a range of illnesses, and managing them without resort to antibiotics and other drugs can be a challenge. Prevention is always better than cure, and the GOD project research was able to identify the best **preventive strategies** for dealing with mastitis, lameness, bloat and parasites.

Information sheets on the organic management and prevention of all these conditions can be found in the [Animal Health section of the Organic Dairy and Pastoral Group website](#) along with a paper by Massey University dairy medicine specialist Alan Thatcher on '[Grazing Strategies to Prevent Parasitism of Organic Dairy Calves](#)', plus notes by Alan on '[Managing Milk Fever Grass Staggers Ketosis](#)' and '[Supplementing Trace Elements in Cows](#)'.