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RESEARCH ON THE USE OF THYME AS A PROPHYLACTIC ALTERNATIVE IN
GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS IN CATTLE

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Abstract: Thyme is a plant from the Mediterranean region, which belongs to the family Lamiaceae, used over time in the treatment of respiratory ailments, digestive ailments, and other diseases. This study presents the prophylactic and therapeutic properties of thyme extract in relation to certain gastrointestinal disorders in cattle. Early-life intestinal disorders in cattle are linked to a number of long-term effects, including a reduction in the severity of both pathogenic and non-pathogenic diarrhea, a slowdown in growth, and a decrease in milk production during the first lactation, all of which result in significant financial losses. Because of its high concentration of thymol and carvacrol, which have exceptional antibacterial, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties, thyme is used in both conventional medicine and phytopharmaceutical preparations. Therefore, the purpose of this review is to provide current information on the role of thyme in the homeopathic treatment of gastrointestinal disorders in dairy cattle.

Introduction

- Cultivated plant species or naturally occurring flora with therapeutic use for humans or animals are known as medicinal plants.
- In 2024, Fatima and collaborators concluded from a study that introducing thyme alone or combined with other antioxidants can be an excellent way to improve the health status of calves.

Results and discussions

- In pre-weaned dairy calves, intestinal illness is the primary cause of morbidity and mortality, raising serious concerns about the health and welfare of the animals.
- Thyme oil and the phenolic monoterpene thymol have antibacterial properties in rumen fluid that promote propionate production and stop protein breakdown.
- Thyme can help calves grow while also improving their immunity and fecal quality.
- Understanding thyme's nutritional role for cattle can benefit their health and well-being.

Conclusions

- Thyme has antibacterial, antioxidant, antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and antifungal properties due to its high concentrations of thymol and carvacrol.
- Thyme is a medicinal plant used over time to feed young cattle as a prophylactic alternative in gastrointestinal disorders.

