"known truths." Today we call this tendency metaphysics as contrasted to scientific empiricism, which arose much later in Britain. The basic tenet of empiricism is that things (cows, diseases, nature, etc.) are too complicated to figure out and that the *only* basis for knowledge is to look (i.e., to collect data, as in an efficacy trial). Fortunately for those who are trying to market products, veterinary education of the mid-to-late 20th century has remained a lot closer to Greek metaphysics that to empirical science (whence the pedantical phrase, "Figure it out from what you know."). This allows someone with a few bits of agreed-upon knowledge to metaphysically construct a whole alternate universe of "new knowledge" supporting the use of a particular product: "Because high levels of such and such antigen are present in this product, it will do a better job of preventing such and such disease than will brand X." "Since use of such and such product protected those two colostrum-deprived, dexamethasone-doped calves we challenged intra-cranially with 10^9 organisms which were homologous to the vaccine strain, it will surely protect calves from natural exposure." "Including our novel adjuvant creates a better immune response and will thus improve the efficacy of such and such vaccine" (using the word "novel" will lend credibility to anyone's metaphysics). **Only the most skeptical readers will ask "Why didn't they just look?" and only the rare cynic will conclude "Maybe they did."**

Abstract

Evaluation of doramectin in a programme for season-long control of parasitic gastroenteritis in calves

M.A. Fisher, D. E. Jacobs, M.J. Hutchinson, A.J. Simon
Veterinary Record (1995) 137, 281-284

Doramectin was used in a strategic programme for the prevention of parasitic gastroenteritis in first season grazing calves. Three groups of nine calves were used: group 1 was left untreated, group 2 was treated with doramectin at 0.2 mg/kg at turnout and again eight weeks later, and group 3 was treated with 0.2 mg/kg ivermectin at three, eight and 13 weeks after turnout. Both treatment programmes prevented the gastroenteritis which occurred in the controls. The growth rates of the treated calves were superior, and their fecal egg output, and serum pepsinogen and gastrin concentrations were all substantially lower than those of the control calves. The numbers of *Ostertagia* species larvae on the pastures grazed by the treated calves were also lower than on the pastures grazed by the control calves.