

# Calcium Propionate, a Treatment for Milk Fever AND a Mold Inhibitor

## ITEM A

Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production

## ITEM B

1. The substance's common name.

Calcium Propionate

3. The intended or current use of the substance such as use as a pesticide, animal feed additive, processing aid, nonagricultural ingredient, sanitizer or disinfectant.

There are two;

- Livestock medical treatment
  - Mold inhibitor in dry formulated herbal remedy
4. A list of the crop, livestock or handling activities for which the substance will be used. If used for crops or livestock, the substance's rate and method of application must be described. If used for handling (including processing), the substance's mode of action must be described.

While Calcium Propionate is widely used as a mold inhibitor on hay and could be reviewed for such use this petition focuses on two lower level, infrequent uses;

- As a Milk fever treatment Calcium Propionate is a valuable tool alone and in combination with Calcium Borogluconate and is safer than Calcium Chloride. It is administered as a drench 8-12 ounces once or twice per day as a preventative or upon early observation of milk fever symptoms. Administered in time it may circumvent the need for IV Calcium Borogluconate treatment or may prevent the need for additional IV treatments.
- As a mold inhibitor it is added to dry pelleted formula at 0.1% to effectively extend product life span from five days to six months.

12. A "Petition Justification Statement" which provides justification for one of the following actions requested in the petition:

Calcium propionate is used in two important ways to help deliver holistic therapy to sick livestock.

a) Calcium propionate is an available calcium source used to deliver high levels of available calcium to cows that are sick with milk fever (a common postpartum ailment of dairy cows). Calcium propionate is a safe and effective treatment given for one or two days to prevent milk fever and/or to support treatment of milk fever. Calcium propionate is a better option for treating milk fever than using potentially dangerous ingredients such as calcium chloride. Calcium chloride is a caustic source of calcium, which generates heat when it comes in contact with moisture. Calcium chloride has been known to damage digestive lining and has actually killed cows, not unlike putting Drano down their throat. Calcium chloride is commonly used in cement mixes to prevent freezing in cold weather and in tractor tire fluid to prevent freezing. Due to its high risk factor, calcium chloride has no place in livestock therapy, much less on an organic farm.

b) Calcium propionate is used as a mold inhibitor in key dietary aloe vera holistic therapy, for treating pneumonia, mastitis, infections, pinkeye, shipping fever and to support immune function. High levels of the aloe vera liquid is added to dry feed pellets and cannot be made without calcium propionate to prevent mold growth on the product. The pelleted aloe vera product is a viable and effective alternative to using antibiotics in the feed for livestock producers, especially when dealing with groups of animals. The application of this therapy is typically short-term (3 to 10 days) and low dosage (2 to 8 oz.) of the finished product. The calcium propionate is a fraction of a percent of the pellet formula.