

## **The role of herbs in prevention of animal diseases**

### **Summary**

Herbs are broad spectrum agents. The herb industry is currently producing herbal extracts and mixtures for use in drug manufacturing on a large scale. Various herbs and herbal mixtures are also used as dietary supplements in animal feeding, especially of poultry and pigs. Herbs stimulate body functions and have anti-inflammatory and soothing properties (e.g. chamomile). They are used to treat diseases of the liver (strawflower, Java tea, rosemary) and kidneys (round-headed lespedeza). Moreover, herbs exhibit potent immunostimulatory activity (cone-flower, pot marigold, black elder) and are effective in preventing lathyrism in turkeys and coccidiosis in poultry, as well as in the treatment ofagalactia in cattle. Herbs have been reported to reduce diarrhoea in pigs, have properties that are helpful during farrowing, and relieve stress responses in gilts during the perinatal period.

**KEY WORDS:** animal, disease, herb, prophylaxis