

# CALVES

## COLOSTRUM PROTOCOL



### COLOSTRUM PROTOCOL STEP BY STEP

- 1 Milk the cow completely as soon as possible using clean material.
- 2 Measure colostrum quality and at <21% Brix supplement the colostrum according to Table 1.
- 3 Bottle feed the calf within 2 hours after birth with as much colostrum as possible, at least 2 litres, or feed at least 10% of its body weight in volume by tube.
- 4 Repeat feeding 2 litres of colostrum by bottle or teat bucket every 6 to 8 hours in order to feed a total of at least 8 litres of colostrum within 24 hours. A calf fed colostrum by tube usually does not drink its next feed of colostrum until 12 hours after birth.
- 5 Feed clean colostrum for the first 3 days and transition milk the last 2 feeds to promote the calf's intestinal health and development.

TABLE 1: INCREASE COLOSTRUM QUALITY

BRIX	VITAL START TO BE ADDED (IN GRAMS) PER LITRE OF COW COLOSTRUM
>21	0
20	30
19	60
18	90



### COW COLOSTRUM TIPS:

- Clean and fresh colostrum is always preferred.
- Store small portions of colostrum in the refrigerator for use the same day.
- To store colostrum longer you can freeze it in small portions immediately after milking so that it thaws easily. Besides being practical, it prevents rapid bacterial growth.
- Colostrum must be defrosted carefully to avoid damaging the antibodies. Our advice is to heat colostrum in a warm water bath (max 60°C).
- If you are unsure whether the colostrum is clean enough, or if you want to reduce the risk of disease transmission, pasteurising for 60 minutes at 60°C is an option. This will kill most bacteria and viruses, but it can also damage good components.

