

Day 1 Colostrum Checklist:

Use this checklist to determine if your maternal colostrum is beneficial to feed to your newborn calf, or if it should be improved with SCCL colostrum.



Can I feed it quickly?

- ◆ 1st feeding as soon as possible after birth, ideally within 2 hours.
- ◆ 2nd feeding within the next 8 hours to assure 2 feedings within 10-12 hours.

Calves have a short window of opportunity to absorb antibodies for successful passive transfer. If they don't receive colostrum quickly, they will not establish the immunity they need for a healthy start.

If you cannot feed maternal colostrum quickly, especially for calves born at night, feed a full replacement of SCCL colostrum right away.



Is it high quality?

Test for quality using an optical or digital % Brix refractometer:

- ◆ < 22% Brix indicates poor quality colostrum
- ◆ > 25% Brix indicates adequate quality colostrum

If your maternal colostrum Brix is lower than 22%, replace it with SCCL colostrum.

Maternal colostrum that is 22-25% Brix can be improved with SCCL colostrum. See our *Enrichment Guide* on page 6.



Do I have enough volume?

- ◆ Adequate = 2-3 quarts
- ◆ Excellent = 3-4 quarts

Feed 10% of the calf's body weight as a 1st feeding (80lb calf = 4 quarts).

When you have less than 4 quarts of maternal colostrum, supplement with SCCL colostrum.



Is it clean and safe?

- ◆ Do not feed colostrum from cows with Johne's, mycoplasma or other diseases.
- ◆ Feed quickly or refrigerate as bacteria counts can double every 20 minutes.

Maternal colostrum is a common carrier for disease-causing pathogens. To prevent cross-contamination, do not pool maternal colostrum and consider heat treatment.

If you are unsure of the safety or cleanliness of your maternal colostrum or if you know it is transmitting disease, discard and completely replace it with SCCL colostrum.



Is my calf stressed?

- ◆ Pulled or c-section delivered calves have a greater challenge absorbing IgG.
- ◆ Heat- or cold-stressed calves also need colostrum quickly to replenish their energy reserves.

Rescue your stressed calves by feeding them a full replacement of SCCL colostrum.