

Setting calves up for success

Lacto-Start™ Colostrum

- High-quality colostrum replacer
- Includes lactic acid bacteria to promote healthy intestinal gut flora
- Beta-carotene and added vitamins to support immune system during first days of life
- 200g per 1L of warm water (40°C)



The four golden rules of colostrum feeding:



Speed: Calves should receive colostrum as soon as possible after birth.



Cleanliness: Clean, hygienically collected colostrum without contamination with germs and pathogens.

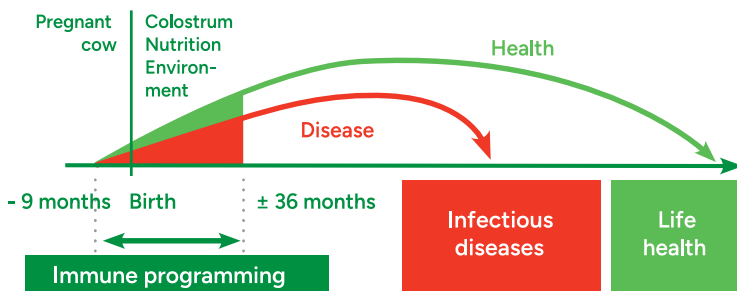


Quantity: Calves should receive as much colostrum as they consume, at least four litres in the first two hours of life.



Quality: The immunoglobulin content should ideally be >50g/L or supported by a colostrum booster.

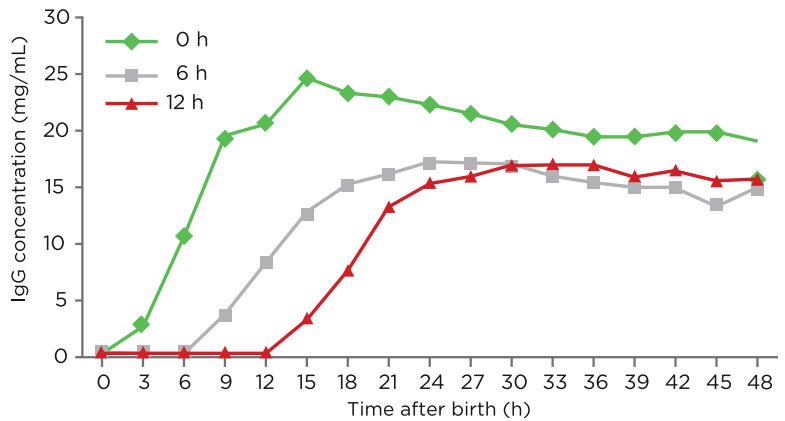
Influence of colostrum supply on the lifelong immune balance (according to Schuberth, 2015)



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Fischer et al. 2018 were able to demonstrate impressively the influence of the timing of the initial colostrum supply on the imprinting and development of the immune system. Prompt provision of colostrum led to a rapid increase in IgG concentration in the blood, thereby inducing rapid immunity in the calves' blood.

If colostrum is provided later (6 or even 12 hours later), the IgG concentration in the blood rises slowly and with a delay. The critical immunological phase lasts longer and the calves become more susceptible to disease.



Influence of the timing of colostrum supply on the IgG concentration in the blood serum of calves (Fischer et al. 2018)

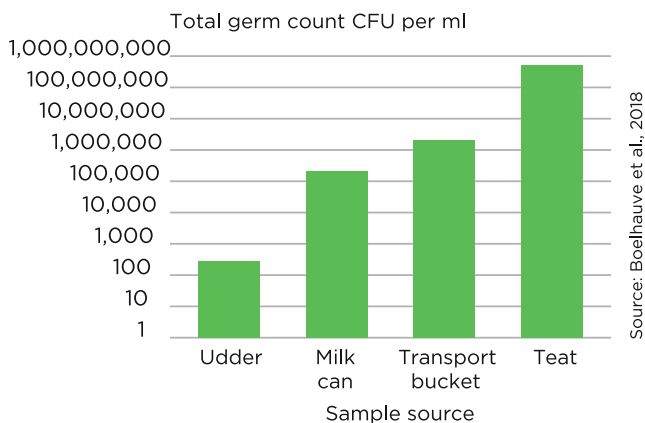
Calves do not receive immunoglobulins from the cow's uterus in the womb. Immediately after birth, the calf's immunity is based solely on the supply of colostrum in the first few hours of life.

Colostrum is usually milked into a jug. Studies show that even very good colostrum can be heavily contaminated with pathogens in the jug. This can increase by the time it reaches the teat.

Almost 70 % of colostrum samples showed coliform contamination by the time it reached the teat (Boelhaue et al. 2018).

If the supply of immunoglobulins is inadequate, problems such as immunodeficiency, total losses, poor growth rates and high treatment costs are inevitable. It is almost impossible to make up for the deficiencies of the first hours of life!

Calves fed colostrum contaminated with germs are more likely to contract lung and diarrhoeal infections. The optimal supply of perfect colostrum has an effect on the health stability and survival rate of the calves and continues to have an effect on the cow into later lactation.



In many cases, intestinal gut walls are already occupied by pathogens BEFORE colostrum enters the gut > intestinal barriers are partly blocked!

- Calves are often exposed to pathogens already in the calving area
- Colostrum contaminated with pathogens:
 - Same can for fresh cows as for cows with udder inflammations?
 - Bucket and teat cleaned after each milking/feeding?

