

# Colostrum management – the 5 Qs:

**Provide** the **newborn calf** with as many **antibodies** as possible



Within  
2 hours

## 1. Quickness: colostrum as quickly as possible!

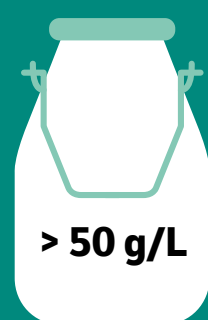
- Feed the calf with **high-quality** and **cleanly milked** colostrum immediately after birth, but in any case **within the first 2 hours after being born**.



At least  
3 – 4 litres

## 2. Quantity: as much colostrum and for as long as possible!

- At least **3 – 4 litres** of colostrum during the **first 2 hours after being born**, and no later than 10 hours later with a further 2 – 3 litres. **No upper limit**, as long as the calf drinks voluntarily.
- **Prolonged administration** of colostrum and transition milk has a **positive effect on the health** of the calf, protects the digestive tract and promotes development.



> 50 g/L

## 3. Quality: as high-quality colostrum as possible!

- > **50 g antibodies** per litre of colostrum, Brix refractometer: > 22%.<sup>1</sup>
- **Checking the antibody content** using the Brix refractometer:
  1. **Apply 1-2 drops of colostrum to the measuring field.** Then carefully close the lid. The measuring field must be covered completely, without bubble formation.
  2. **Read the value on the Brix scale.** The measuring line may be blurred in the case of colostrum.
  3. **Thorough cleaning** of the measuring field after each measurement.
- **Create a colostrum bank:** freeze surplus, high-quality colostrum immediately; it can be kept frozen (-20 °C) for up to 1 year. **Caution:** do not heat the colostrum above 40°C when defrosting.



## 4. Quite Clean: work as cleanly as possible!

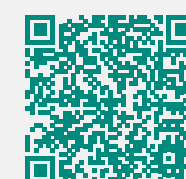
- **Pay attention to milking hygiene:** wear **gloves**, milk 3–4 spurts per teat into a **pre-milking cup**, clean the teat tip with a clean **udder cloth** (1 cloth per cow, 1 corner of the cloth per teat), only milk from **healthy udder quarters**.
- Only use **cleaned milking and drinking equipment**.



## 5. Quantification: as many antibodies as possible!

- > **10 g antibodies** per litre of serum, Brix refractometer: 8.4 %.<sup>2</sup>

**Video** with further information



1. Biemann et al. 2010 2. Morin et al. 2021

**MORE. VALUE.  
PREVENTION.**

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DE-MON-24080005