

# COLOSTRUM

## Heat-Treating Guidelines

- **Start with clean colostrum**
  - Clean teats on fresh cows
  - Clean milker bucket
  - Rapid cooling to 16° before refrigerating
  - Keep refrigerated at 4° until ready to heat treat
- **Keep the heat-treating unit clean**
  - Always rinse before washing
  - Wash with recommended detergent at recommended temperature
  - Rinse with recommended acid or acid/sanitizer
  - Sanitize before each use
- **Keep the heat-treating operating properly**
  - Check holding temperature regularly - 60°
  - Check holding time regularly - 60 minutes
  - Process only small to moderate sized batches – 55 litres or less
- **Store heat-treated colostrum properly**
  - Use only clean storage containers, sanitize just before filling
  - Cool rapidly to 16° before refrigerating/freezing
- **Feed a clean, healthy product**
  - Warm/thaw in water not above 55°
  - Use only clean, recently sanitized bottles/tube feeders
  - Feed promptly once colostrum is up to calf body temperature (39°)
- **Monitor regularly (If anything can go wrong, it will!)**
  - Collect and culture raw and heat-treated colostrum samples regularly
  - Collect and culture "as-fed" colostrum samples regularly
  - Collect blood samples from young calves to check on antibody transfer
- Additional Internet resources on colostrum management are available at [www.calffacts.com](http://www.calffacts.com). Type "colostrum" in the search box or click on Resources, select Calf Facts. You may want to try [www.calfnotes.com](http://www.calfnotes.com), too.