

COLOSTRUM

Guidelines for Heat Treatment

- **Start with clean colostrum**
Clean teats on fresh cows
Clean milker bucket
Rapid cooling to 60° before refrigerating
Keep refrigerated at 40° until ready to heat treat
- **Keep the heat-treatment unit clean**
Always rinse with lukewarm water before washing
Wash with recommended detergent at recommended temperature
Rinse with recommended acid or acid/sanitizer
Sanitize before each use
- **Keep the heat-treatment unit operating properly**
Check holding temperature regularly, no greater than 140°
Check holding time regularly - 60 minutes
Process only small to moderate sized batches - 15 gallons or less
- **Store heat-treated colostrum properly**
Use only clean storage containers, sanitize just before filling
Cool rapidly to 60° before refrigerating/freezing
- **Feed a clean, healthy product**
Warm/thaw in water not above 130°
Use only clean, recently sanitized bottles/tube feeders
Feed promptly once colostrum is up to calf body temperature (102°)
- **Monitor regularly (If anything can go wrong, it will!)**
Collect and culture for bacteria raw, heat-treated and “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 . Type "colostrum" in the search box or click on Calf Facts in the left-hand menu. You may want to try www.calfnotes.com, too.