

Points to check for Reducing Coliform Counts in Colostrum

- 1. Clean teats in the parlor.**
- 2. Clean milker buckets including lids, valves and gaskets.**
- 3. Clean pails and/or bottles into which to pour colostrum.**
- 4. Covers for all milker buckets and pails (especially in a milking parlor).**
- 5. Prompt feeding of fresh colostrum (goal is to feed in less than one hour after collecting colostrum; sooner is better).**
- 6. Prompt cooling of colostrum before it goes into the refrigerator or freezer. The goal is to get colostrum under 60 degrees in less than 30 minutes after it is collected; sooner is better. An ice water bath will work. Or, freezing water in plastic bottles that can be put into a pail at the ratio of 1 part ice to 4 parts colostrum will work also.**
- 7. If freezing colostrum use either a commercial one-use container (for example, Perfect Udder bags) or one-gallon freezer-weight self-sealing plastic bags filled with one quart of colostrum.**
- 8. Clean containers for stored colostrum – one-use containers are preferred compared to ones that have to be washed and reused.**
- 9. Clean nursing bottles and nipples.**
- 10. Clean tube feeder including the esophageal tube.**
- 11. Prompt feeding of warmed-up colostrum (goal is to feed within 30 minutes after it is warmed to calf body temperature - 102°)**

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