

Colostrum Replacer Guidelines

- **What are colostrum replacers?**

1. Single dose package of dry powder (recommended), sometimes packaged in bulk.
2. Mixed with warm water (temperature as recommended by manufacturer)
3. Fed at the same time one would feed colostrum.
4. Contain variable amounts of antibodies (depends on manufacturer). The antibody (globulin protein) content of one package may vary from 50 to 150 or more grams.
5. The nutritional profile is highly variable depending on the manufacturer (fat may vary from 12 to 25 percent, crude protein from 40 to 45 percent on a dry matter basis).
6. Cost is usually about three times that of a colostrum supplement.

- **Colostrum supplements are not replacers** (for example: Lifeline, Colostrix, Bovine Ecolizer, First Defense) are NOT colostrum replacers. They have little if any nutritional value. The antibody (globulin protein) content may be as little as 12 grams.

- **Tips for colostrum replacer use**

1. Always mix thoroughly. A stainless steel restaurant-size whip will work. A handheld immersion blender/mixer is the most effective tool.
2. Always use warm water. Follow the manufacturer's recommended temperature. Recommendations vary from 105°F to 130° (40° to 55°C).
3. Always use the volume of water recommended by the manufacturer. Excess water will reduce the amount of the antibodies absorbed.
4. Do not mix the colostrum replacer powder with milk or colostrum regardless of the manufacturer's directions. The dry matter concentration of this mix will be too high for optimum antibody absorption and digestion.
5. Always feed as soon as possible after birth.
6. If using an esophageal feeder for calves that cannot suckle, be sure the calves are standing or in an upright position while tubing and for a while afterwards, too.

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