

Colostrum Storage Checklist

How do your procedures measure up? Do they provide the opportunity for delivering wholesome colostrum with minimal bacterial contamination to newborn calves?

Let's consider procedures for storing colostrum. Compare your routines with the standards in this checklist.

- _____ 1. I use plenty of teat dip as a predip before harvesting colostrum from the freshly calved cow.
- _____ 2. I scrub teats and teat ends while wiping off the predip.
- _____ 3. I draw foremilk to get rid of bacteria in the end of the teat opening.
- _____ 4. I suck a disinfectant through the milker claw into collection bucket.
 - I use warm, not hot water.
 - I use a generous amount of chlorine bleach/disinfectant.
 - I tip the collection bucket to allow the disinfectant to reach all surfaces.
 - I allow the disinfectant to remain in the bucket as long as possible.
- _____ 5. I keep a lid on the bucket at all times, especially while it remains in the parlor.
- _____ 6. I sterilise buckets or bottles I am going to use for storage before pouring the colostrum into them.
 - I use hottest water available.
 - I use a generous amount of chlorine bleach/disinfectant.
 - I allow the disinfectant to remain in the container as long as possible.
- _____ 7. I split up the colostrum into small quantities for pre-chilling before refrigeration (for example, nursing bottles) rather than adding it to a container already in the refrigerator.
- _____ 8. I pre-chill the colostrum to 16°C before refrigerating it.
- _____ 9. I freeze colostrum if my supply of refrigerated colostrum is going to last more than two days.
- _____ 10. When thawing frozen colostrum, I follow procedures that will not raise the liquid temperatures above 49°C to avoid denaturing the antibodies.

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