

# 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? Go to [www.calffacts.com](http://www.calffacts.com) . Click on “Resources” for a drop-down menu, select “Calf Facts Resource Library”. You may want to try [www.calfnotes.com](http://www.calfnotes.com), too.