

COLOSTRUM MANAGEMENT**1. PURPOSE**

Calves' ability to absorb immunity factors from colostrum starts to decrease soon after birth. As a result, producers need to ensure calves receive adequate colostrum as soon as possible to maintain their health, growth and vigor.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

All permanent, casual and student staff.

3. MATERIAL

- 3.1 Pail
- 3.2 Refractometer
- 3.3 Colostrum Quality Readings sheet
- 3.4 Colostrum bag
- 3.5 Funnel
- 3.6 Jug
- 3.7 Thermometer

4. PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Harvest Colostrum (Maximum 10Litres) in a milking pail as per corresponding SOP;
 - [DC-609: Milking Pail Cows in a Tie Stall or](#)
 - [DC-610: Milking Pail Cows in a Box Stall.](#)
- 4.2 Transport the pail to the lab/necropsy room.
- 4.3 Test the colostrum quality by placing a small drop of the colostrum on the refractometer.
 - Good quality colostrum (≥ 22 BRIX)
 - Below grade colostrum (< 22 BRIX)

NOTE**STAPH or Leucosis Positive colostrum: measuring more than 22brix should be:**

- Labeled "STAPH" or Leucosis Positive on the bag
- Used only for bull calves, beef breeds, or crossbreeds.

- 4.4 Record results on the Colostrum Quality Readings Record ([Appendix DC-A-5A: Colostrum Quality Reading Record](#))
- 4.5 Identify colostrum bag with:
 - Dam name
 - Calf number
 - Date collected
 - Quality (% Brix)
- 4.5.1 Fill the colostrum bag using a jug and funnel, Do not overfill the bag because it will expand!
- 4.5.2 Seal and immediately store the bag in the walk-in freezer. Stored colostrum has a shelf life of 12 months.
- 4.5.3 Wash all materials used with Della-Clean Extra ("Bulk Tank soap")
- 4.6 THAWING COLOSTRUM: For feeding instructions, Refer to [SOP DC-505: Calf Feeding](#)
- 4.6.1 Remove from freezer. Thaw the oldest one first. Thaw the colostrum bag in a bucket of hot water (1-1.5 hours). Establish that the colostrum is in liquid form by feeling the bag. However, it will not be at the adequate temperature to feed the calf.

- 4.6.2 When completely thawed, transfer colostrum from the bag to the nipple bottle.
- 4.6.3 Take the temperature of the colostrum using a cooking thermometer.
- 4.6.4 Feed the calf when the temperature reaches 98-100°F
- 4.6.5 If below adequate temperature:
 - 4.6.5.1 Continue to warm the colostrum by placing the bottle in a small pail of hot water.
 - 4.6.5.2 Take temperature every 5 minutes to avoid overheating.
 - 4.6.5.3 If overheated, remove the bottle from water and test temperature frequently until it reaches the adequate temperature (98-100°F)

Document Status and Revision History

DATE	STATUS
7-Nov-2017	Version 01: Mac Campus FACC approved
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