



KNOW WHEN TO SUPPLEMENT

- Twins
- Weak calves
- Poor suckle reflex
- Difficult calvings
- Poor udder health
- Lack of maternal instincts
- Have not suckled within 4 hours of birth

DO

- ✓ Ensure the herd is up to date on vaccinations.
- ✓ Intervene early. Ideal intake is ~1.5 litres of colostrum immediately after birth for high-risk calves (e.g. assisted calvings, twins, weak suckle) or 2 litres by 4 hours for those that fail to nurse.
- ✓ Give enough. Calves need a minimum of 100g of IgG in their first feeding. Ensure the colostrum supplement totals 100g, which may require more than one package.
- ✓ Collect your own colostrum. Fresh or frozen colostrum from your own farm is always best.

DO NOT

- ✗ Do not give the wrong product. **Replacer** is meant to be used when no other sources of colostrum have been made available and must contain adequate levels of IgG. **Supplements** are meant to be fed to calves that have already received some colostrum or are expected to nurse or be fed more.
- ✗ Do not automatically tube feed. It is always better to try feeding via a nipple bottle first, and if unsuccessful then move to tube feeding. Tube feeding places fluid directly into the rumen, which doesn't allow for maximum absorption of IgG and nutrients. Tube-fed calves should nurse within 8-12 hours or be fed more colostrum.
- ✗ Do not thaw frozen colostrum in the microwave, instead use a warm water bath.
- ✗ Do not bring in colostrum from another farm. Diseases not commonly found on your farm could be introduced by using raw colostrum products from other farms.

