

# Colostrum Protocol

- **Collection**
  - Fresh cows move to milking area within 2 hours of calving
  - Milk fresh cows before sick or treated cows
  - Cow preparation is identical to routine parlor practices
  - Milking equipment is serviced and sanitized between cows and between milkings
  - Save colostrum for calves only if the cow or heifer meets these criteria:
    - Johnes ELISA test negative
    - Healthy
    - No mastitis
    - Has not leaked milk
    - No bloody milk
    - Has been dry at least 45 days and in the transition group for a minimum of 14 days
  
- **Labeling and Storage**
  - Fresh colostrum is put into 2 or 4 quart calf bottles or ziplock containers
  - Each container is marked with cow ID and date of collection
  - Colostrum not fed within 2 hours is placed into a clean refrigerator
  - Colostrum > 7 days old is discarded
  
- **Administration**
  - Calves are moved out of the calving area immediately after birth
  - One single meal of first milk colostrum is given to newborn calves
  - Between 2 and 4 hours of age or when calves stand and suckle, administer 4 quarts of colostrum from a single cow at one single feeding.
    - Suckling
    - Suckling + esophageal feeder
    - Esophageal feeder
  - Calves that fail to stand or suckle are given 4 quarts of colostrum from a single cow by esophageal feeder at 4 hours after birth