Top Ten Reasons for Disappointing Herd Colostrum Results

Sheila M. McGuirk, DVM, PhD
University of WI-Madison
School of Veterinary Medicine
Madison, WI

- Calves suckle before leaving the calving pen, i.e. time in pen ≥ 2 hours
- Colostrum bacterial contamination
- Fresh cows are milked ≥ 6 hours after calving
- Required immunoglobulin mass is not delivered when there is adequate efficiency of absorption
- Insufficient colostrum available because low quality and first calf heifer colostrum is not used
- Colostrum supplement or replacement powder is added to colostrum
- Inappropriate expectations of colostrum replacement products
- Late summer or heat stress
- Calves aren’t tested
- Test results are not reliable