

Calf Care - Maternity Management - Colostrum Evaluation

Key

For each of the following calves, find the following in the sample and fill in the chart.

1. What is the brix value of the colostrum administered to this calf?
2. What is the quality of the colostrum?
3. Is the colostrum quality acceptable?
4. Management- your thoughts

Tips: The maternity team will pasteurize all colostrum and put in freezer for newborn calves first feeding. However, there are some examples that we do not do this, because the farm is low on colostrum in the freezer. No colostrum will be fed to calves under 20%. Fill out the samples below using your best judgement and provide what you would do differently, if applicable.

Calf 20: Sample A

Holstein heifer calf, born mid-morning (65 degrees in barn) with no birth difficulties. Thawed Colostrum with a brix value of 23.4% administered to the newborn 40mins after birth.

Colostrum Brix Reading	Colostrum Quality	Acceptable	Management
23.4%	Good	Yes	Keep everything as is

Calf 21: Sample B

Beef Bull Calf, Born late night (45 degrees outside) with some difficulties. Fed colostrum straight from colostrum bucket after milking cow. Colostrum Brix value of 27% administered 20mins after birth.

Colostrum Brix Reading	Colostrum Quality	Acceptable	Management
27.7%	Excellent	Yes	move the cow in barn with that outside temp-everything good.

Calf 22: Sample C

Jersey bull calf, born early morning (50 degrees in barn) with hard labor during birth. Fed colostrum after pasteurization with a colostrum brix reading of 19%.

Colostrum Brix Reading	Colostrum Quality	Acceptable	Management
19%	Below Fair	No	Dump and pull high colostrum brix reading from freezer to help calf re-energies after hard birth.