

## KNOW WHEN TO SUPPLEMENT

- Twins
- Weak calves
- Poor suckle reflex
- Difficult calvings
- Poor udder health
- Lack of maternal instincts

## DO

- ✓ Ensure the herd is up to date on vaccinations.
- ✓ Intervene early. The ideal intake is 2 litres of colostrum within the first 2 hours of life and another 2 litres in the next 8-12 hours.
- ✓ Give enough. Calves need a minimum of 100g of IgG in their first feeding. Ensure the replacer totals 100g, which may require more than one package.
- ✓ Collect your own colostrum. Fresh or frozen colostrum from your own farm is always best.

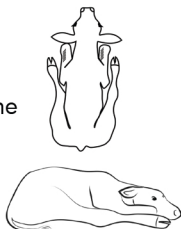
## DO NOT

- ✗ 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 added to a calf's diet that has already received some colostrum.
- ✗ Do not automatically tube feed. It is always better to try feeding via a nipple 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.
- ✗ 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.



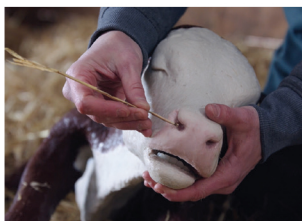
### PLACEMENT

- ✔ Place the calf up on its sternum.
- ✔ Pull the front feet forward to allow the chest to expand.
- ✔ Pull the back legs up toward the calf's ears.



### PROCEDURE

- ✔ Rub the calf vigorously.
- ✔ Stimulate breathing by poking the nasal septum with a piece of straw.
- ✔ Squirt a few drops of cold water in the ear to cause them to gasp.



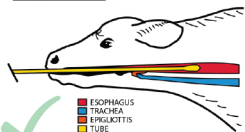
### REMEMBER

- ✘ DO NOT hang the calf upside down to drain fluid. This only empties the stomach and puts pressure on the diaphragm.



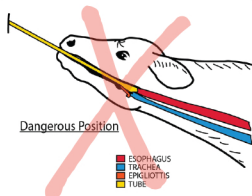
### POSITION

Neutral Position



- ✓ Restrain the calf in a corner to maintain head control.

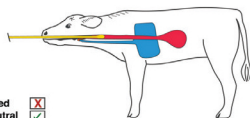
Dangerous Position



- ✓ Place the head in a neutral position.

### PLACEMENT

- ✓ Gently advance the tube. If there's resistance, pull it out and start again.



- ✓ Palpate the calf's neck. When the tube is in the correct position, you will feel two tube-like structures (trachea and esophagus).

### REMEMBER

- ✓ It's important to feed slowly. It can take up to 3 minutes for the stomach to fill.
- ✓ Ensure the fluids are body temperature (38°C/100°F).
- ✓ Before pulling the tube, kink and pull in one swift motion to ensure no fluid is inhaled.
- ✓ To ensure pathogens are not introduced to the herd, use separate feeders for sick and healthy animals.
- ✓ Clean the equipment thoroughly.



### GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSMENT OF DEHYDRATION IN CALVES

Dehydration Level	Attitude	Eyeball Recession	Skin Tent Duration
None (<5%)	Normal	None	<1 sec
Mild (6-8%)	Slightly Depressed	2-4 mm (1/8")	2-4 sec
Moderate (8-10%)	Depressed	4-6 mm (3/16")	4-6 sec
Severe (10-12%)	Comatose	6-8 mm (1/4")	>6 sec

Source: Geof Smith, DVM, MS, PhD, Dept. of Population Health & Pathobiology, North Carolina State University



### SKIN TENT

- ✓ Perform a skin-tent test by pinching the skin over the neck and gently pulling to make a tent. Release and count how many seconds it takes for the skin to return to normal.

### BEHAVIOUR

- ✓ Look for behaviour cues in the herd, such as a calf that is not stretching when rising. Watch for calves with drooping ears. A cow bawling for a calf or showing a full udder indicates the calf is not nursing. Watch for calves that appear lethargic or depressed.

### EYES

- ✓ To assess a calf for sunken eyes, look at the space between the lower eyelid and the eyeball. The wider the space, the more dehydrated the calf is.

### BALANCE

- ✓ Notice any calves that are staggering or have poor balance.

### TEMPERATURE

- ✓ Be aware of the link between dehydration and hypothermia. Normal temperature is 38-39°C.

### SUCKLE

- ✓ Pay attention to calves with a weak or non-rhythmic suckle reflex.

