**SOP #8 - Colostrum Management and Calf Feeding**

*(Question AC8, July 2023 Reference Manual pages 2-5 & 2-6. All shaded areas are required elements of your SOP. You may use your own words to communicate the same intent.)*

Purpose: Calves need to receive adequate colostrum and nutrition to grow and stay healthy. Calves’ ability to absorb immunity factors from colostrum starts to decrease soon after birth. As a result, farmers need to ensure calves receive adequate colostrum as soon as possible.

* On this farm we will provide the quantity and quality of colostrum, milk, water and feed to ensure adequate nutrients and hydration are provided to calves for their health, growth and vigour.
* The persons who will feed calves are: , , and/or other persons as delegated from time to time by either the owner or herdsperson. All persons handling calves will be trained in the safe, humane and effective handling of cattle.
* **Newborn Calves:**
  + Will receive the first feeding of good quality colostrum as soon as possible, but no more than 6 hours after birth.
  + Quality
    - Only colostrum from healthy cows with a Brix score of ≥ 22% will be fed as fresh or kept and frozen.
    - Colostrum replacer will be used if there is not sufficient colostrum available.
* Quantity
  + The quantity of colostrum for each feeding will be determined on an individual basis, but at least 2 litres per 50 lbs calf weight will be fed within 12 hours of birth (e.g. for a 100 lb calf this would be 4 litres).
* Will be offered the opportunity to nurse a bottle. If they are unable or unwilling to nurse, calves will be fed via stomach tube feeder.
* All bottles and feeding equipment will be cleaned after each use.
* **Unweaned Calves:** 
  + Will receive a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigour.
  + Milk or milk replacer will be offered to unweaned calves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times a day. But this will be at least 2 times per day or free choice.
  + Will be fed an incrementally increased volume of milk or milk replacer during cold weather by about 25%.
  + Quality
    - Only whole milk from healthy cows will be fed as fresh.
    - Milk replacer will be used if there is not sufficient quantity of good quality whole milk.
* Quantity
  + The total daily intake will be equal to 20% of the calves’ body weight for the first month (about 8L per day for a Holstein calf).
  + All bottles, pails and feeding equipment will be cleaned after each use.
  + Clean water will be offered to all calves over 10 days of age\*.
  + At \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days of age calves will be offered the quantity and type of calf starter ration as determined by the nutritionist.
* **Weaning Calves:**
  + Weaning will begin at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weeks with the quantity of milk fed being reduced over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weeks.
  + During weaning water will be offered at least 2x per day\*.
  + All bottles and milk feeding equipment will be cleaned after each use.
  + Waterers and feed buckets will be cleaned on a weekly basis.
* **Weaned Calves:**
  + Every day weaned calves will be offered the quantity and type of feed ration as determined by the nutritionist and offered free choice water\*.
  + Waterers and feed buckets will be cleaned on a weekly basis.

\**Question AC10 - July 2023 proAction Reference Manual page 2-6 requires that good quality water is provided to cattle over 10 days of age, and that calves in the process of being weaned or weaned calves need to be offered water at least 2x/day.*