

Colostrum Storage Checklist

How do your storage procedures measure up? Do they provide the opportunity for delivering wholesome colostrum with minimal bacterial contamination to newborn calves?

Compare your routines with the standards in this checklist. When making this evaluation I like to use these scores: 1=never, 2=seldom, 3=often, 4=usually, and 5=almost always.

- _____ 1. I use plenty of teat dip as a predip.
- _____ 2. I scrub both teats and teat ends while wiping off the predip.
- _____ 3. I draw foremilk to get rid of bacteria in the end of the teat opening.
- _____ 4. I suck a sanitizing solution through the milker claw into collection pail.
 - I use warm, not hot water.
 - I use a generous amount of chlorine bleach/sanitizer.
 - I allow the sanitizing solution to remain in the collection pail as long as possible.
- _____ 5. I keep a lid on the collection pail at all times, especially while it remains in the parlor.
- _____ 6. I sanitize buckets or bottles before pouring the colostrum into them from the collection pail(s).
 - I use hot water.
 - I use a generous amount of chlorine bleach/sanitizer.
 - I allow the sanitizing solution to remain in the container as long as possible.
- _____ 7. I pre-chill the colostrum to 60° F (16°C) before refrigerating or freezing it. Click [HERE](#) for a chilling procedures resource.
- _____ 8. I split up the colostrum into small quantities for pre-chilling before freezing (for example, single-use self-sealing freezer-weight one-gallon plastic bags – fill with only one quart of colostrum for quick thawing).
- _____ 9. I freeze colostrum if my supply of refrigerated colostrum is going to last more than two days.
- _____ 10. When thawing frozen colostrum, I follow procedures that will not raise the liquid temperatures above 120°F (49°C) to avoid inactivating the antibodies.

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