



Calf management at birth sets a calf up to reach maximum genetic potential. ABS Beef InFocus Calf management protocols* are as follows:

Immediately After Birth:

- Remove the calf as quickly as possible from the maternity pen to prevent disease and injury.
- Dip the navel of the calf with either 7% Iodine Tincture or a 1:1 mixture of chlorhexidine and 70% alcohol within 30 minutes of birth.
- Tag the calf according to Beef InFocus guidelines.
- High-quality colostrum should be fed within 2 hours of birth according to the protocols below.
- Record the date of birth, dam ID, calving difficulty, and other applicable information into the farm records software.
- Ensure calf's coat is dry and fluffed before exposure to temperatures below 60°F(15.5°C).

Colostrum Collection and Delivery:

- Colostrum should be collected within 4 hours of calving.
- Cows, milking equipment and colostrum storage/collection containers should be clean. Avoid low quality colostrum and colostrum from known Johne's-positive animals.
- Within 2 hours of birth, 4 quarts (3.8 L) of high-quality colostrum (>22 Brix) should be fed to the calf. This is the equivalent of 10% of the calf's body weight at 90 lbs.; therefore, a smaller calf may receive less and vice versa.
- Colostrum should be fed within 30 minutes of collection, or chilled to 60°F(15.5°C), then refrigerated or frozen.
- Refrigerated Colostrum should be fed within 48 hours of collection or discarded. When reheating colostrum should be warmed to 102°F(39°C).
- An additional 2 quarts (1.9 L) of high-quality colostrum should be fed 12 hours after the first feeding. In Absence of High-Quality Fresh Colostrum: Feed colostrum replacer exceeding 150 grams IgG to newborn calves within 2 hours of birth, with an additional feeding exceeding 50 g IgG 12 hours after the first.

Environmental Requirements:

- Clean bedding in a dry and well-drained area. 6-10 inches of bedding is recommended.
- Ventilation must be adequate for the environmental conditions.
- Calves should be protected from inclement weather, including shade in sun-exposed facilities.
- Housing and individual pens should be disinfected and cleaned between calves.

Additional Guidelines:

- An appropriate vaccination protocol for the cow herd will aid in producing high-quality colostrum for the calves.
- Calves should begin a vaccination protocol immediately, based on the local veterinarian's recommendations.
- Colostrum should periodically be checked at time of feeding for bacteria counts to ensure proper handling. Properly pasteurized colostrum provides optimal disease prevention.
- Clean water and fresh starter grain should be offered to calves starting at day 1 of life.
- Beef InFocus calves are polled and do NOT need to be dehorned.

*Several management practices recommended are supported by/in alignment with the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association Gold Standards.