

## The Importance of Colostrum in Calf Feeding

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I have emphasized the importance of colostrum in calf feeding in this article.

If you want to and have strong- disease resist calves, you must feed calves with good quality and quantity as soon as calving occurs.

The colostrum is some sort of liquid released from cow's udder which includes very rich nutrients in particularly proteins, minerals, fats and substances which are so crucial for the formation of the microflora of guts and the life of calves in their future.

If it is such an important substance, then how can we get this liquid?

Of course, we need to provide all the necessary nutrients with very good and balanced needs in the dry period and heifers in the close-up period for the last 20 days to parturition as it is known that, calves have to get antibodies, which are so crucial for the formation of the immune system from colostrum.

Because of the formation placenta is not suitable for penetration of maternal antibodies in contrast to other species.

If the calf would not get enough and antibody-rich colostrum, it could be so easily sick and vulnerable to disease such as diarrhoea, pneumonia.

In recent months, we have had a lot of diarrhoea (cryptosporidiosis) cases and we could not get colostrum a second and third day of parturition from our fresh heifers in our Simmental dairy farm.

After that, we have finally found a way that we have got to change some of the components of our ration and also, we have changed the medical treatment for diarrhoea.

And we have been providing good quality and quantity colostrum to our newborn baby calves.

Therefore, preparing, calculating and formation of rations, which are transition and close up period, are so crucial and beneficial for supplying good quality and quantity colostrum and milk yield in the lactation period.

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