



serval

ADVICE SHEET

Immunoglobulins
Nursing
Maternal Kid goats
Colostrum Immunity
Protection Quality
Milk
Refractometer
Antibodies

KID GOATS

Colostrum



COLOSTRUM

CARACTERISTICS

The real colostrum is milk from the **first milking**, it is rich in antibodies & protects the kid goat against neonatal diseases, until its own system is fully functional. Colostrum is also important as a primary source of **nutriments**. It is essential for the **immunisation of kid goats** against post-partum infections.

ROLES





NEEDS

Distribution at the earliest (immediately after birth), sufficient quantity of quality colostrum is essential for the life insurance of young animals.



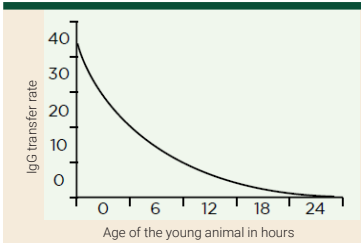
kid goats

	Within the first 6 hours	First drench: 10-15% of bodyweight
	Within the first 24 hours	Supply: 10-15% of bodyweight in three drenches

First early drench : not later than 6 hours after birth. Administration of 400mL. Ideally in the first 6 hours (not later than 12 hours).

Useful tips:

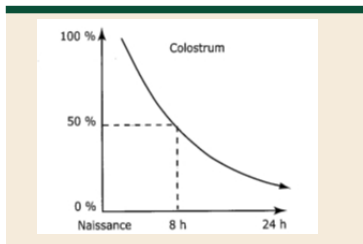
Probe check the kids lacking appetite, Create a bank of colostrum. Selected and thermised colostrum doses from the farm.



Graph adapted from Blomquist, 2009.

The ability of the small intestine of the kid goat to absorb immunoglobulins decreases rapidly during the first hours after birth.

If a kid goat has not received any colostrum within 12 hours of birth, it is unlikely that he will be able to develop enough antibodies later to develop immunity.



The colostrum contained in the “first milk” is the richest in antibodies and nutrients. These amounts decrease in the colostrum produced later by the mother.

QUALITY

The quality of colostrum is measured in g of **type G immunoglobulins (IgG)**.



kid goats

IgG quantity for goats (g/L)	QUALITY
0-28	VERY BAD
28-50	BAD
50-70	GOOD
GREATHER THAN 70	EXCELLENT

Excellent quality colostrum can be frozen.

Thawing is done in a water bath or at room temperature.

NEVER IN THE MICROWAVE

If the colostrum is of poor quality, do not hesitate to supplement or replace with a colostrum-replacement.

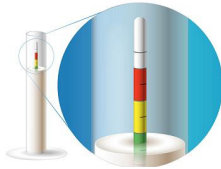


COLOSTRUM

MEASURE

Two tools can be used to measure the quality of colostrum: the colostrum scale and the refractometer.

The colostrum scale is calibrated for bovine colostrum. Density is different for goat or sheep milk.



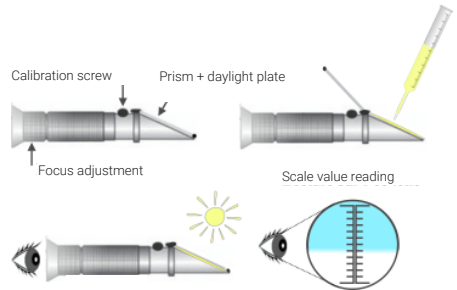
a colostrum scale



a refractometer

REFRACTOMETER

- Put a few drops on the plate (prism).
- Close and look through the eyepiece.
- Read the number between light and dark on the left.
- Clean and dry thoroughly after each use.



kid goats

	Brix	Actions
VERY BAD	< 15 %	Take colostrum from another goat
BAD	18-25 %	500 ml + 1/4 bag of colostrum-replacement
GOOD	25-29%	500 ml
EXCELLENT	> 30%	350 ml

CONSEQUENCES of a bad distribution of colostrum (quantity, quality, delay)

- risk of mortality x 5
- risk of disease x 8
- mediocre weaning weight: inferior ADG

Areas for improvement to study in the event of bad colostrum:

- Ratio of dry up cows (in quality and quantity, minerals included)
- Control of parasitism (especially fluke)
- First milking as early as possible (possibly within a few hours after calving)