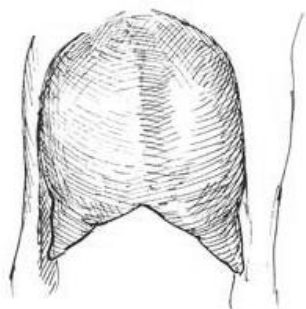


Colostrum

What you need to know

Colostrum also known as the first milk after parturition is rich in immunoglobulins, and nutrients containing proteins, lactose, fats, minerals and other components like hormones, antimicrobials, anti-inflammatories, and growth factors that help lambs/kids get off to a great start.



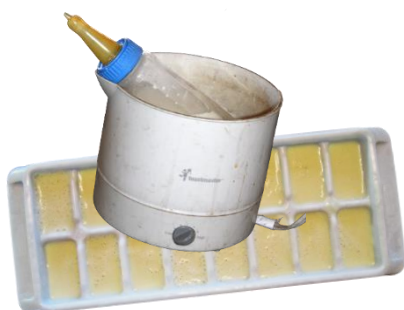
Ewes/does only produce colostrum for about 24 hours. Good nutrition ensures a good supply of quality colostrum. Older females usually produce more and better colostrum.



Strict hygiene is important in collection, storage, and feeding of colostrum.

Frozen colostrum should be thawed in a warm water bath. Do not microwave or use high heat, as this will destroy the antibodies.

Colostrum stored in the refrigerator lasts 24–28 hours. It lasts for up to a year in the freezer but should not be refrozen.



If the lamb/kid doesn't nurse, colostrum can be fed with a nipples bottle or an esophageal tube feeder.

Lambs/kids need to consume colostrum as soon as possible. They are born with brown fat that only provides energy for the first few hours. In addition, their ability to absorb antibodies declines rapidly after birth.

If feeding powdered colostrum, be sure to feed a colostrum replacer, as the replacers contain IgG, whereas the supplements don't.



Lambs/kids need to consume at least 10% of their body weight in colostrum. 30% more if they are fed cow colostrum.



If dams have been vaccinated for clostridial diseases, this immunity (passive and temporary) will transfer to the lamb/kid via the colostrum.