

## Emergency Plan for Staff Newborn Calf Management

### Newborn calf check and records:

*e.g. things to record and where:  
bull/heifer and breed  
date/time of birth  
cow ID/sire ID if known  
assisted/any health issues/stillbirth etc  
twin/freemartin?*

A good tip is to put tail tape on individual pen with DOB, breed, weight (if recorded), sex and treatment given (e.g. halocur).

### Calf treatments after birth:

*e.g. dip naval with iodine or chlorhexidine solution  
crypto prevention – e.g. halocur?  
Move to individual pen when?*

Check naval during first week of life for abnormal swelling, bleeding, pain and signs of infection (pus or odour). Also observe dung for consistency and presence of blood.

### Harvesting Colostrum:

Harvest colostrum from cow as soon as possible after calving as per instructions:

*e.g. prepare udder/teats as per normal milking  
milk colostrum into dump bucket*

### Colostrum testing, handling and storage protocol:

Colostrum can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours and frozen for up to 12 months.

*e.g. quality tested using colostrometer or brix refractometer  
pasteurised?  
frozen?  
Or fed immediately?*

### Colostrum testing guidelines:

Colostrometer:

Reading	Quality	
Green	SUPERIOR	≥ 50 g/litre IgG
Amber	MEDIUM	20-49 g/litre IgG
Red	POOR	≤ 20 g/litre IgG

Brix refractometer:

BRIX Reading	Colostrum Quality	Action
> 22%	Superior	Use as a first feed
20-22%	Medium	Only use for second or third feed
< 20%	Poor	Do not use as colostrum

### Colostrum feeding:

Feed colostrum to the newborn calf ASAP after birth and ideally within 2 hours.

Size of first feed: \_\_\_\_\_ litres (should be 10% body weight)

Size and timing of 2<sup>nd</sup> feed: \_\_\_\_\_ litres and \_\_\_\_\_ hours after first feed

Colostrum fed for \_\_\_\_\_ days at \_\_\_\_\_ litres twice a day.

Record that colostrum has been administered and by whom

Bottles/teats/stomach tubes used for feeding colostrum to calves must be cleaned and disinfected between calves.

Further instructions:

*e.g. thawing colostrum from freezer – in water bath at what temperature and for how long?  
administration – bottle feed by teat or stomach tube?*

### **Tagging the calf:**

Primary tag must be fitted within 36 hours of birth.

Secondary (management) tag must be fitted within 20 days of birth.

Ensure hands, equipment and tags are clean and kept on a clean surface before use to avoid infection.

Carefully restrain the calf and follow the steps below, starting with the primary tag:

- The primary tag should be inserted in the calf's left/right ear (*delete as appropriate*).
- Separate the two halves of the tag (male and female) and place the male part onto the applicator pin and push down firmly.
- Load the female part into the jaw (under the tongue) of the applicator. Making sure the parts line up and will lock together when fitted.
- Insert tag just above the middle vein and about a quarter of the way along the ear (tag must be inserted between the two large veins in the ear).
- The female part of the tag should be on the inside of the ear and the male part should be at the back of the ear.
- Once the tag is positioned correctly, press the applicator firmly (once the two halves of the tags have clicked together the tag has been inserted).
- Rotate the tag to ensure it can move freely.
- Repeat the above procedure for the secondary tag in the other ear.

### **Useful Contact Details:**

Calf Feed Contact:

Number:

Company:

Vet:

Number:

Practice: