

COLOSTRUM QUALITY INTERPRETATION

You can't manage what you don't measure!

Determining the quality of colostrum from each fresh animal is the most important part of a colostrum feeding management plan.



Instructions on how to use the dip style digital refractometer for IgG testing:

1. Dip the silver tip of your clean refractometer into the colostrum and stir.
2. Press the start button.
3. Within three seconds the results will appear on the digital screen.

The refractometer reading will appear in Brix scale. Use the chart to the right to convert the Brix scale readings to IgG values. The digital refractometer is not sensitive to the colostrum temperature, so you can test colostrum immediately after collection.

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Colostrum Reading

	% Brix	grams IgG/ Qt	grams IgG in 4 Qt
POOR QUALITY (Do Not Use)	18.0	Less than 15	Inadequate
	18.2	Less than 15	Inadequate
	18.4	Less than 15	Inadequate
	18.6	Less than 15	Inadequate
	18.8	Less than 15	Inadequate
	19.0	15.0	60.0
AVERAGE QUALITY (Use For Bull Calves)	19.2	16.8	67.2
	19.4	18.8	75.3
	19.6	20.9	83.4
	19.8	22.9	91.5
	20.0	24.9	99.7
	20.2	26.9	107.8
	20.4	29.0	115.9
	20.6	31.0	124.0
	20.8	33.0	132.2
	21.0	35.1	140.3
	21.2	37.1	148.4
	21.4	39.1	156.5
	21.6	41.2	164.7
	21.8	43.2	172.8
GOOD QUALITY (Use For Heifer Calves)	22.0	45.2	180.9
	22.2	47.3	189.0
	22.4	49.3	197.1
	22.6	51.3	205.3
	22.8	53.3	213.4
	23.0	55.4	221.5
	23.2	57.4	229.6
	23.4	59.4	237.8
	23.6	61.5	245.9
	23.8	63.5	254.0
	24.0	65.5	262.1
	24.2	67.6	270.3
	24.4	69.6	278.4
	24.6	71.6	286.5
24.8	73.7	294.6	
25.0	75.7	302.8	
25.2	77.7	310.9	
25.4	79.7	319.0	
25.6	81.8	327.1	
25.8	83.8	335.2	
26.0	85.8	343.4	
26.2	87.9	351.5	
26.4	89.9	359.6	
26.6	91.9	367.7	
26.8	94.0	375.9	
27.0	96.0	384.0	