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High Quality Colostrum Replacers ... Helping Calves Survive and Thrive

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Nowhere does the term “early influence lasts a lifetime,” stand truer than when looking at the use of quality colostrum in today’s immune-compromised neonatal calves. Establishing transfer of adequate immunity in the first hours of life by feeding high quality, high immunoglobulin-laced colostrum affects a calf’s immunological and cellular development, potentially impacting growth, lifelong health and performance. ¹

New generation colostrum supplements (100 grams to 150 grams of bovine globulin protein (IgG) or more per serving), are **offering producers twice the IgG of traditional colostrum supplements** used in the past. They also reward producers with an excellent chance of survival and long-term productiveness. Research continues to showcase the need for colostrum products with 100-150 grams IgG or more.

Within the first 24 hours of life, it’s important that a calf receives enough colostrum to achieve successful passive transfer of immunity from disease. This can come in the form of maternal colostrum, a combination of maternal colostrum along with a colostrum supplement, or with the use of a newer 150 IgG colostrum replacement product like Bio-Pro 150 Colostrum Replacer.

Research has shown that calves receiving a minimum of 100 grams IgG if nipple fed, or 150 grams IgG if tube fed are most likely to achieve successful passive transfer of immunity. This is noteworthy because calves that fail to achieve passive transfer are prone not only to the short term effects of death or disease, but also to reduced long term productivity, low weight gain and delayed calving. It’s clear that adequate colostrum sets the foundation for a calf’s ability to survive and thrive. ²

I want to focus on this new Bio-Pro 150 Colostrum Replacer product for several reasons. The biggest reason I am excited about this colostrum replacer is that it contains **30% or 150 grams of globulin protein** from high quality, pasteurized bovine colostrum combined with additional egg-source immune factors that provide highly effective and specific protection to newborn calves when they need it the most. Make sure and look at your current colostrum replacer product for this important dosage information. Many colostrum replacer products fall short in providing enough globulin proteins to adequately protect your calves.

Additionally, this new colostrum replacer contains the unique benefit of serving as a highly concentrated inoculation of bovine-specific lactic bacteria and live cell yeast at **230 billion total Colony Forming Units** (CFUs) per 500-gram dose along with natural source vitamin E. This high concentration of host-specific beneficial bacteria serves to protect against potentially harmful pathogens such as E. coli and salmonella

and essentially jumpstart the digestive system. The high level of natural source vitamin E helps prevent tissue oxidation and is of the utmost importance in calves needing immune protection. Again, compare your label to see if you are truly getting these additional digestive and immune balancing benefits.

Bottom line is that one area of the operation that doesn't need to be neglected is the use of high quality colostrum or colostrum replacer products to provide maximum immunity to newborn calves. Make sure yours is living up to the calves' needs and is providing that vital first-step in becoming a valuable addition to your dairy's success and profitability.

Author

Dr. Jimmy Horner holds a Ph.D. in Ruminant Nutrition from Texas A&M University and a M.S. in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University and has been consulting and teaching animal nutrition for more than 30 years. Dr. Horner is the President/CEO of Protocol Naturals/Protocol Technologies/Horner Industries, Bridgeport, Texas.

References

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