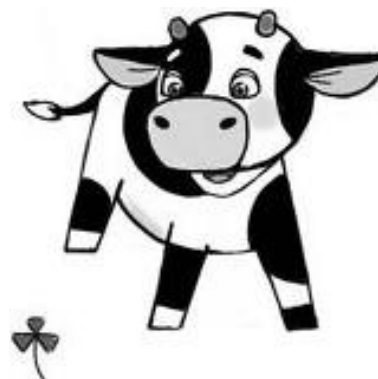


# KVC Bovine Producer Newsletter

## April 2011

### In this issue:

- \* Water for pre weaned heifers
  - \* Does your colostrum measure up?
  - \* CQM Update
  - \* New Pricing @ KVC
- 



### Water Makes Gains!

Making water available to your pre weaned calves can help get them on to starter faster, and improve their daily gains. A study found that simply by providing free choice water, calves ate 45% more starter during the first four weeks of life, and gained 60% more weight during that period compared to their counterparts with no water.

#### Feeding Free Choice Water to Pre Weaned Heifer Calves

	free choice water	no water
number of calves	20	21
calf starter intake in the first four weeks	25.8 lbs	17.8 lbs
weight gain in the first four weeks	<b>18.6 lbs</b>	<b>11.6 lbs</b>
water consumed in the first four weeks	44.5 L	none

Reference: Kurtz, A.F., L.F. Reutzell, and J.H. Mahoney, "ad libitum water intake by neonatal calves and its relationship to calf starter intake, weight gain, feces scores, and season." American Journal of Dairy Science 67:2964-2969.

Even in cold weather, it is possible to provide water without creating ice Frisbees! Feed water while calves are still active, usually in the morning between milk and feeding starter. Most water consumed by calves happens in the first hour after it is fed, so you could come back after feeding grain and dump the pails. Feeding warm water also helps to avoid chilling very young calves in cold weather.



## Colostrum Checklist

How do your colostrum management practices measure up? Do they provide the maximum opportunity for your calves to grow into their genetic potential? Compare your routines with the standards in this checklist. Use these scores: 1=never, 2=seldom, 3=often, 4=usually, and 5=almost always.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. All feeding equipment is washed after every use. It is first rinsed with lukewarm water. Hot water should not be used for the initial rinse since it will make milk proteins stick to the surface. Equipment is then scrubbed with hot soapy water and rinsed with chlorine bleach. This means both inside and outside surfaces are scrubbed.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Colostrum is harvested from a clean, dry udder. Proper pre and post milking procedures are followed. Buckets used are cleaned immediately after use (see #1). Colostrum contaminated with environmental bacteria greatly increases the risk of septicemia and scours. Very highly contaminated colostrum may substantially reduce the rate of antibody transfer as well.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Colostrum contaminated with mastitis and blood is discarded. Calves not receiving their dam's colostrum are given colostrum replacer (containing at least 100g of IgG) or stored (frozen) colostrum from a single animal.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Colostrum is fed to calves as soon as possible after birth. If they won't suck a bottle, calves are tubed (preferably with the calf standing). At least half of calves will get colostrum within one hour after birth, and all of them within six hours. About one-half of a heifer's ability to absorb antibodies is gone by that time.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Plenty of good quality colostrum is fed. Average and large calves are fed four litres. Smaller calves are fed proportionately less but still get three litres.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. If colostrum is to be stored, it is chilled rapidly by placing 3-4 frozen water bottles with the colostrum in the fridge. When it is cool, the bottles are removed and the colostrum is moved into the freezer and identified by the dam's ID and date harvested.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Management practices are monitored by periodically culturing colostrum for bacteria. A 50mL sample is taken as colostrum is fed to the calf. For example, the sample would be taken as it runs out of the tube feeder or bottle.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Passive transfer levels are occasionally monitored by sampling 10 calves between 2 – 10 days old. A blood sample is taken to check serum protein levels, which are a good indicator of IgG levels. 80% or more calves should be passing this test.

**Questions? Talk to your herd veterinarian!**

## CQM is Here – is Your Farm Ready?



The Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program has begun its roll out across the province and if you haven't already, you will be receiving a package from the DFO shortly to provide you with all the necessary information. You will be notified as to when your farm will be due for its initial validation. Regardless of this date, we recommend all farms implement the program on farm and obtain validation as early as possible to show your commitment to producing safe quality milk and meat products.

All of KVC's veterinarians have been trained as CQM advisors and are able to provide you with the training necessary to obtain validation as smoothly as possible. We will be running a number of in class training sessions to prepare you for the program, followed by on farm training, one-on-one, to ensure the program's requirements are being fulfilled on your farm.

All producers are entitled to both in class and on farm training, up to a maximum of 2.5 hours, at no cost, so we encourage you to take advantage of it. If you are interested in pursuing in class training, please call the clinic to add your name to the list. We have already successfully trained a number of clients both in class and on farm, and more training sessions will be booked upon request.

We have also developed a number of other resources at the clinic that will assist you in completing the CQM program's requirements such as best management practices, Standard Operating Procedures templates, product inventory lists and a database of product insert labels. Talk with your herd health veterinarian about how these resources can be incorporated into your CQM preparation.

So what can you do now?

- As soon as you receive your producer manual from DFO take time to read through it and familiarize yourself with the program's requirements and all of its necessary records.
- Call the clinic to provide us with your date for initial validation
- Sign up for in class training when you are ready to implement the program. Remember, 3 months of **all mandatory CQM records** are required before you can complete validation, but training can and should occur at any time.
- Talk to your herd health veterinarian about how the program will best fit on your farm

## New Pricing at KVC!

Please ask your herd health veterinarian how we compare for all your bovine pharmaceutical needs.