

Milking

Prioritize milking the cow as soon as possible after calving to preserve the high concentration of antibodies in the colostrum. The hygiene level when milking colostrum from fresh cows must be as high as when milking lactating cows. Remember teat dip after milking. It is advantageous to use a disinfectant prefoam for cleaning the udder before milking. Always change to clean gloves before handling colostrum.

Storage

Freshly milked colostrum must be cooled or frozen immediately after milking to prevent bacterial growth. If the colostrum will be used the same day it is milked, cool it in a refrigerator. If the colostrum is to be saved for later use, store it in the freezer. Do not freeze large quantities; limit portions to no more than 4 litres, as larger amounts take too long to thaw.

Feeding

Time is a crucial factor for the calf's immune system. With each hour after birth

without colostrum, the calf absorbs fewer antibodies. Use a bucket or bottle with teats when feeding colostrum. Use a soft teat dedicated exclusively to colostrum feeding. A soft teat helps the calf drink more easily, preventing fatigue before all the colostrum is consumed. It is important to wash and disinfect the teat between each use. If the calf is too weak to drink on its own the colostrum can be fed by a tube. When feeding by tube, it is likely, that some colostrum will remain in the rumen instead of reaching the abomasum, resulting in fermentation of colostrum in the rumen. If the calf is alert and standing, it may be beneficial to hang the teat bucket or bottle in the calving box, allowing the calf to drink independently.

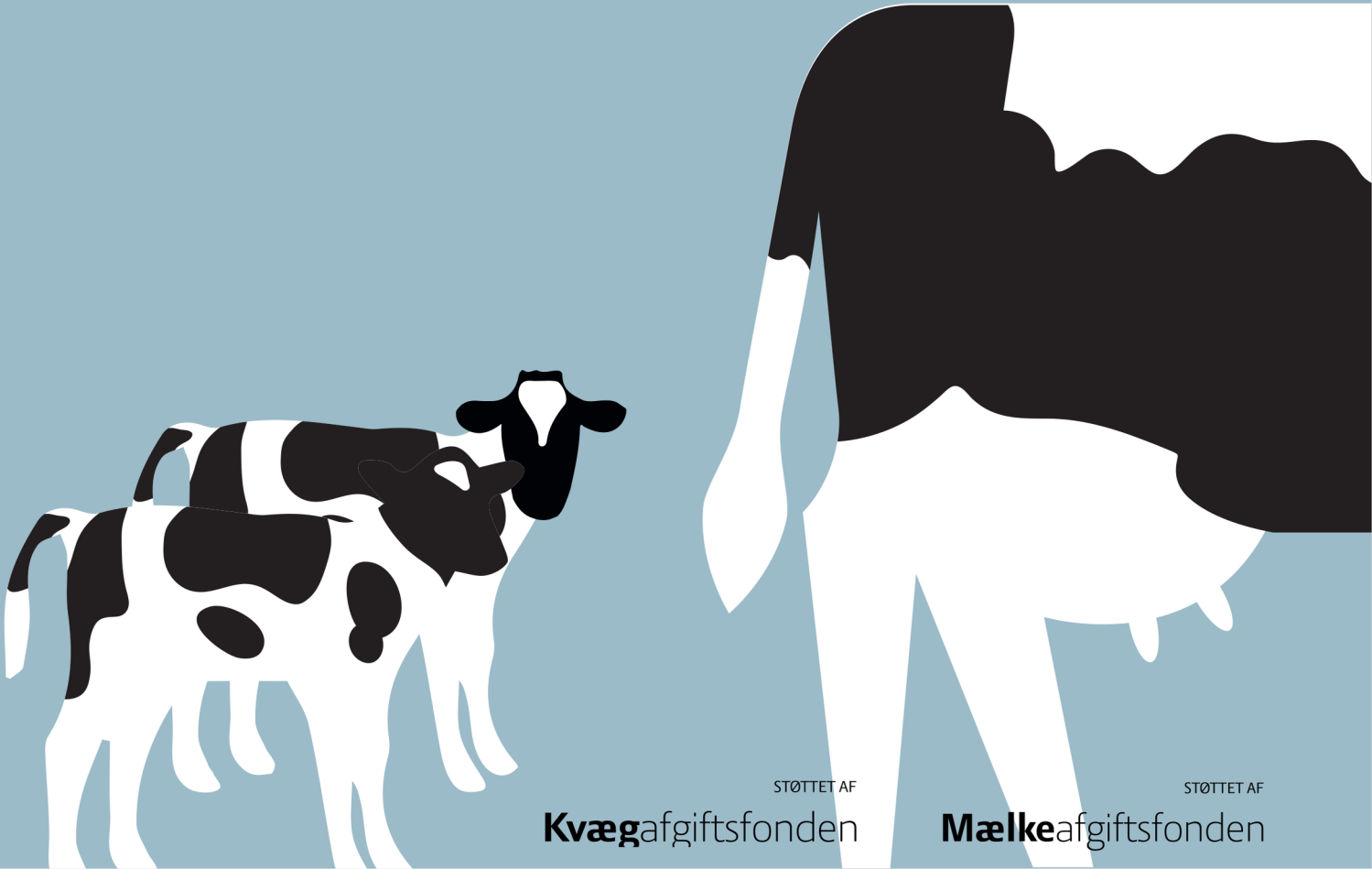
Cleaning

Equipment must always be clean and dry before disinfection. Otherwise, the disinfection process is ineffective and a waste of time and resources.

Proposal for protocol in calving area/
calf kitchen/ calf barn

Calf number	Calving time	Cow number	Cow milked (time)	Calf fed colostrum (time)	Brix%of colostrum	Amount of colostrum fed	Feeding method	Who fed?	Was equipment clean?

How to handle
colostrum
safely and securely



COLOSTRUM GUIDE

Milking

Milk the cow as soon as possible after calving (<6 hours) maintaining the same high hygiene standards as for regular milking (use gloves and ensure a clean udder).

If possible, milk the cow in the calving box to minimize movement.

● *SEE MORE on the back of the folder.*

Measure the Brix% of the colostrum and record both quality and container number on the container. The colostrum should ideally measure >22% to be considered good quality.



Storage

Store colostrum in a clean and airtight container and cool/freeze it immediately after milking

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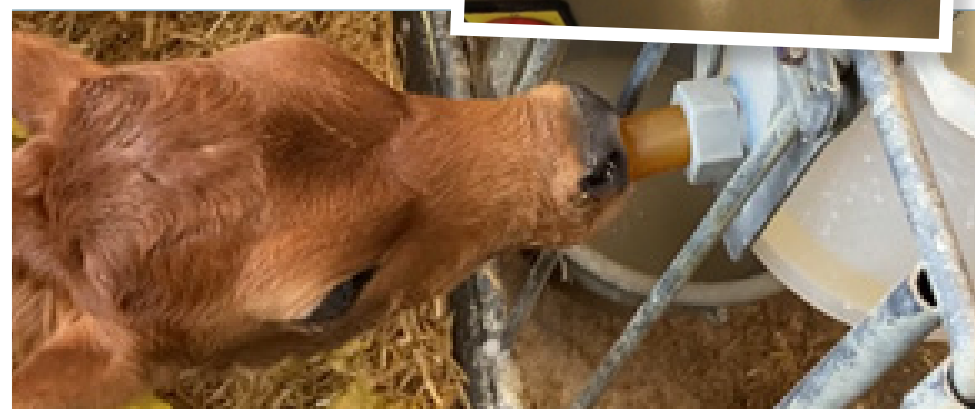
Feeding

Feed the calf colostrum as soon as possible after birth (within 2 hours). If colostrum is frozen, thaw it in a water bath at approximately 45 °C for about 30 minutes. Ensure the colostrum is at the optimal temperature (39 °C) before feeding.

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Feed 3-4 litres of colostrum to the calf using a teat

● *SEE MORE on the back of the folder.*

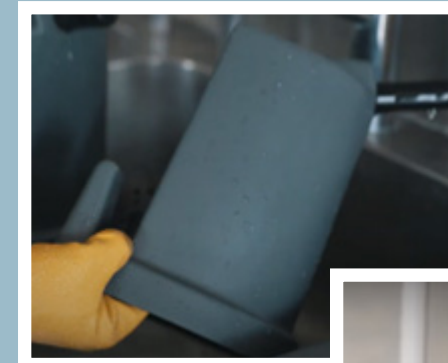


Cleaning

Always clean the filling station, bucket, bottle, teats or tube.



Rinse equipment in lukewarm water immediately after removing all milk residues



Wash with a good alkaline soap in lukewarm water.



Allow the equipment to air dry

● *SEE MORE on the back of the folder.*

Disinfect the equipment (for example with VirkonS in a 2% solution) once it is completely dry, and allow it to air dry again after disinfection



Storage

Store the teat and tube used for colostrum feeding in a closed, clean cabinet or in the freezer between uses

