Newborn calf care

The first hours of a calf's life can have significant, long-lasting impacts on calf health and growth. The following steps can help reduce stress and pathogen exposure during this critical time:

- Sanitize all maternity and newborn calf tools, as well as newborn calf feeding equipment. Designate a bottle brush, nipple brush and esophageal tube brush for newborn calf equipment only.
- Wash your boots and wear clean latex gloves and clothing when handling newborn calves. It works well to keep a pair of waterproof bibs in the maternity area.
- Move the newborn calf to a clean, dry, draft-free and well-bedded environment as quickly as possible. Vigorously towel-dry the calf to stimulate blood flow and reduce chilling from a damp haircoat.
- During cold weather, fit the newborn with a calf jacket when it is completely dry.
- Follow the instructions listed on the packet of SerPass 150 or SerPass 200 to ensure adequate mixing. Administer at a feeding temperature of 105 degrees F via nipple bottle or esophageal feeder, preferably within the first hour after birth.
- Using a clean cup, dip the navel with 7% tincture iodine and make sure it saturates the navel area. Note that dipping is more effective than spraying.
- Administer vaccines as directed by your veterinarian.

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REV 0120

Calf colostrum replacers deliver vital nutrition for newborn calves in an easy-mixing formula

Vita Plus Calf Program

Growing Tomorrow's Herd

SERPASS 150 & 200

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SERPASS 150 & 200

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The latest technology in calf colostrum replacers

SerPass 150 and SerPass 200 calf colostrum replacers are formulated to provide calves with globulin protein and nutrients naturally found in maternal colostrum. SerPass 150 and SerPass 200 conveniently and economically deliver bovine colostrum-derived globulin protein to newborn calves. They are go-to options when maternal colostrum is in short supply, labor is limited, or in situations that pose a biosecurity risk.

Two products to meet your calves' needs

Producers can choose from two SerPass options to meet their farms' needs. SerPass 150 delivers 150 grams of globulin protein in 2.1 quarts of mixed colostrum replacer solution, and SerPass 200 delivers 200 grams in 2.2 quarts. Both products come in convenient, single-serving packages. Their easy-mixing fomulas mix in warm water in less than 30 seconds.

Table 1. IgG delivered in SerPass 150 and SerPass 200.

Item	SerPass 150	SerPass 200
Dose size, g/packet	560	660
Bovine colostrum IgG, % of dose	26.8	30.3
Bovine colostrum IgG, g/L[a]	75	96

[a]Good quality colostrum immunoglobulin G (IgG) concentration ≥50 g/L (Morrill et al., 2012).

Key features to support newborn calf health

- Globulin protein from bovine colostrum
- Blend of fatty acids for increased energy and digestibility
- **Convenient**: Single-serve feeding and easy-mixing formula
- **Safe**: *Salmonella-*, *E. coli-* and Johnes-negative
- **Effective**: Laboratory-tested and field-proven high rate of globulin protein transfer efficiency

Table 2. Passive transfer field data results for calves fed either SerPass 150 or SerPass 200 within one hour of birth on a commercial dairy farm.

Item	SerPass 150	SerPass 200
Number of calves[a]	42	42
Serum total protein, g/dL[b]	4.95	5.21
Serum IgG, mg/mL[c]	15.1	17.5
Calves achieving passive transfer, %[d]	83	88
Apparent efficiency of IgG absorption, %[e]	33.7	29.0

[a]Field data collected at a commercial dairy farm in Wisconsin.
[b]Measured using Misco refractometer total protein.
[c]Measured at University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine using radial immunodiffusion assay.
[d]Passive transfer defined as serum IgG >10 mg/mL at 24 hours of age (McGuirk and Collins, 2004).
[e]Apparent efficiency of IgG absorption calculated as (serum IgG at 24 h / IgG fed, g) x birth bodyweight, kg x 0.09 (serum volume as percent of bodyweight).

Table 3. Growth field data results for calves fed maternal colostrum, SerPass 150 or SerPass 200 within one hour of birth on a commercial dairy farm.

Item	Maternal colostrum[a]	SerPass 150	SerPass 200
Number of calves	30	30	30
Serum total protein, g/dL	6.20	4.95	5.21
Birth bodyweight, lb	78.1	77.0	76.0
Days in nursery	69.4	71.0	71.1
Average daily gain, lb/d	1.68	1.64	1.60

[a]Colostrum brix = 26.4%.