Did you know…

- half of neonatal lamb E coli is now resistant to spectinomycin (most common Watery Mouth treatment)
- lambs fed adequate quality colostrum at birth do not succumb to Watery Mouth

**Recommendation:** Feed 210–290ml colostrum per kg bodyweight in the first 24 hours of a lamb’s life and the first feed within two hours of birth.

**Top Tip**
Check pregnant ewes’ metabolic profiles or body condition and adjust feed to improve chances they will have sufficient high quality colostrum when they lamb.

Did you know...

- higher colostrum intake at birth improves pig survival rate up to weaning
- the smaller the interval between farrowing and first suckle, the lower the levels of pre-weaning mortality

**Recommendation:** Newborn pigs should be on a teat within 30 minutes of birth to meet immediate energy requirements, then consume over 200ml of colostrum in the first 24 hours.

**Top Tip**
A relaxed and calm sow is one of the biggest factors affecting colostrum intake.

Visit [www.colostrumisgold.org](http://www.colostrumisgold.org)

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**Join our campaign to make sure**

#ColostrumIsGold

[www.colostrumisgold.org](http://www.colostrumisgold.org)

Find out inside how colostrum can help you improve health and productivity, increase daily liveweight gain and reduce antibiotic use.

Join the #ColostrumIsGold campaign this February by sharing your tips and experiences, and win a refractometer, ewe milker or other great prize!*

More details on this as well as facts, information videos and other resources at [www.colostrumisgold.org](http://www.colostrumisgold.org)

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**Feeding colostrum**
- of the right quantity
- of the right quality
- quickly enough after birth

will improve health and productivity, increase daily liveweight gain, and reduce the chance that newborn animals will need antibiotic treatments later in life.

Colostrum provides the building blocks of the newborn animal’s immune system. Colostrum is also crammed with fats and carbohydrates to maintain body temperature and growth, and provides other nutrients to increase digestive capacity and suppress growth of harmful bacteria.

Despite this, many calves, lambs and pigs are underfed colostrum at birth.

**Did you know…**
- just 5% of dairy farmers feed colostrum in the first two hours of birth, the ideal timeframe
- up to 50 percent of calves do not receive enough colostrum and only 30 percent have sufficient levels of colostral immunity
- a calf needs to suck continuously for approximately 20 minutes to consume enough colostrum from the cow
- calves with low antibody levels at 1-2 days of age are more likely to become ill or die before weaning; calves with high concentrations have better health, lower mortality and higher daily liveweight gain, and reach target weights more quickly

**Recommendation:** Feed high quality (>50 mg/ml of antibody) colostrum at 10% of body weight ideally within two hours of a calf’s birth but definitely within four.

**Top Tips**
- Weighting a calf at birth ensures you can feed the recommended 10% bodyweight within two hours.
- Consider buying a refractometer with a 0-32% scale so you can make more informed decisions about whether to feed, store or discard colostrum.

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