

COLOSTRUM REPLACEMENT IN LAMBS AND KIDS  
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All farm animal species have a six-layer placenta. These six layers prevent the movement of antibodies from the mother's bloodstream into the fetal bloodstream. For that reason, all newborn farm animals must consume colostrum, the mother's first milk, within 6 hours of birth. If no meal of any kind, neither milk or colostrum, has been consumed following birth, some colostrum absorption will occur up to 12 hours following birth.

About 3 weeks prior to birth, the dam begins to concentrate antibodies circulating in her bloodstream into the milk glands of the udder tissue. This concentration peaks just prior to birth, so that the first meal the newborn consumes is made up of high concentrations of antibodies that were previously circulating in the bloodstream of the dam. For that reason, it is important to vaccinate the dam against all diseases the husbandman desires to protect the newborn against. It is ideal to vaccinate prior to breeding, and booster the vaccinations that are safe to give a pregnant dam about 1 month to 3 weeks prior to birth. The booster vaccination will stimulate the immune cells within the dam to produce high concentrations of antibodies, which she will, in turn, concentrate in her first milk, the colostrum.

A newborn farm animal is born with an open intestine for several hours following birth. This means the newborn can absorb antibodies and other substances and cells contained in colostrum into their own bloodstreams. This opportunity is only available during the first 6 to 8 hours following birth. Because this process operates for such a limited amount of time, it is critical that a full dose of colostrum be given a newborn as soon after birth as possible. Colostrum contains a quantity of fat, fat-soluble vitamins A, D, and E, and quick energy supplying milk sugars. All these

ingredients are essential for strengthening the

newborn animal, and supplying the energy needs for the first few hours following birth.



*Advance Rite Start Colostrum Supplement* is dried colostrum and contains 50 grams of antibody per pound. It takes 1 gram of antibody per pound of body weight to provide enough antibodies for a newborn animal to achieve passive

transfer of maternal immunity. Doing some quick math, 2 ounces of *Rite Start Supplement* should be wetted thoroughly in 1 cup of 110 degrees Fahrenheit water. The dried colostrum must be mixed thoroughly and aggressively. If clumps or lumps of unwetted colostrum are administered, it will inhibit quick absorption of the essential antibodies. This process provides 6 grams of antibody, sufficient for lamb or kid weighing up to 6 pounds at birth. It is best to give this colostrum by bottle and nipple, but it can be fed by esophageal tube feeding as well. Repeat this 2-ounce dose within 2 to 4 hours to the first dose. If a lamb or kid is born without access to maternal colostrum, *Rite Start Supplement* is an excellent alternative.

Without colostrum administration, a newborn animal is 74 times more likely to die than one given adequate colostrum. Colostrum is truly God's gift to the newborn.

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