ZST Blood Sampling at CAFRE

One way of measuring the success of colostrum management is the zinc sulphate turbidity test (ZST). Calves are blood sampled (by veterinary practitioner) between 2-7 days of age, with samples then sent off for laboratory analysis. Table 1 shows the interpretation of ZST results. During the 2018 winter a total of 53 calves were blood sampled at CAFRE. As highlighted in Figure 1, the majority of calves had adequate colostrum absorption (above red line), with a small number in the moderate category.

Table 1- AFBI (Stormont) interpretation of ZST results

<10 (g/l)	Poor quality absorption
10-20 (g/l)	Moderate colostrum absorption
>20 (g/l)	Adequate colostrum absorption

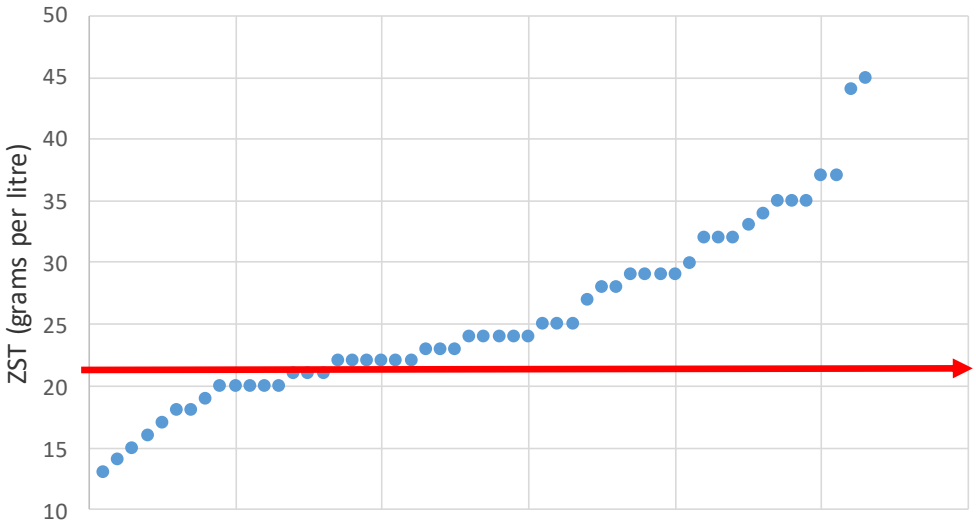

Figure 1- ZST results of blood sampled calves