



Calf Rearing Open Day

Maternity Wing

Layout of house

The unit was designed:-

- To allow easy stock movement with the minimum of stress and effort.
- To give good welfare and cow comfort
- To reduce the disease challenge faced by the cow and new born calf.
- Flexibly sized group bedded pre and post calving pens
- Multiple individual pens with calving gates and head locking yokes.
- Depending on space available animals are moved to the pre calving pen several days before calving

Management

Close up dry cow group fed partial dcab diet. Same diet fed in pre calving pen. (TMR of 23% Bale silage grown out no slurry / 63% wholecrop / 14% straw / 1.4kg pre calver and 100gms MagChlor)

During the day animals are checked and cameras are used after the late-night check

On calving the cow is restrained and receives 20 litres

of fluids and is milked using the mobile milker. Small amount of milking cow ration available (TMR 66% grass silage / 28% maize silage / 6% straw / blend) with water trough outside the pen

Colostrum - the most important meal in life

Key thing is Quickly, Quantity, Quality and Hygiene

Passive immunity obtained from colostrum is the only source of early immunity in newborn calves.

The immune status in this period depends directly on the quantity and quality of colostrum ingested in the first few hours.

It is important to minimise the risk of bacterial contamination of colostrum which can occur at any stage during the collection, storage and feeding process

Colostrum feeding

As quickly as possible the harvested colostrum is fed to the calf. 10% of calf's body weight is fed using bag and tube. Remaining colostrum is retained for next feed.

The mobile milker and colostrum bag is washed.

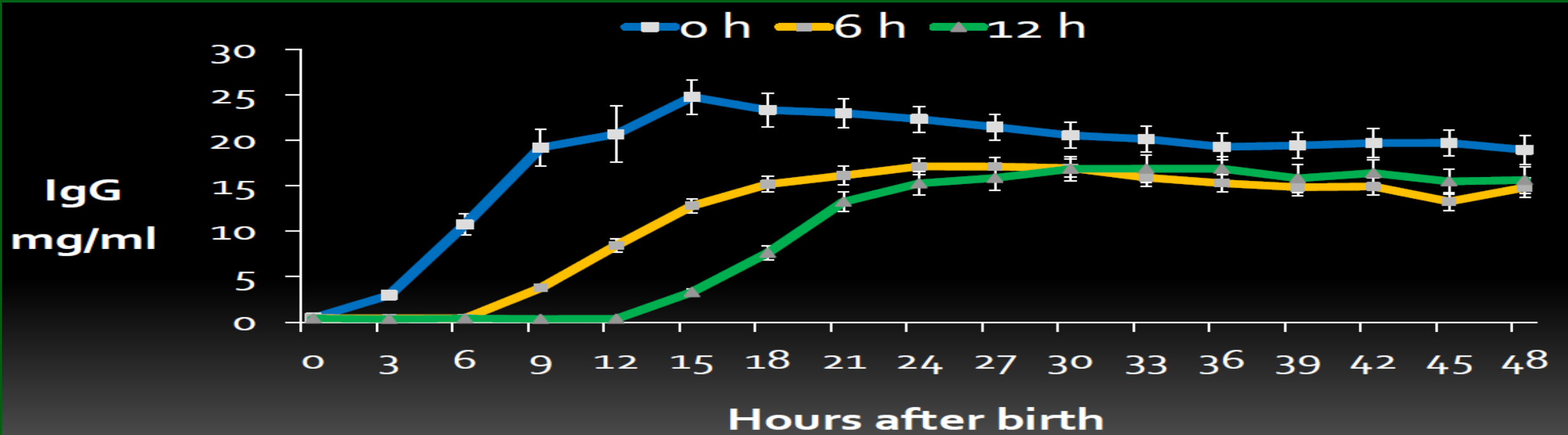
There is a water heater convenient to the calving pens

The cow number is written on the white board in the

parlour and the remaining litres of transition milk to be harvested is noted for further feeding

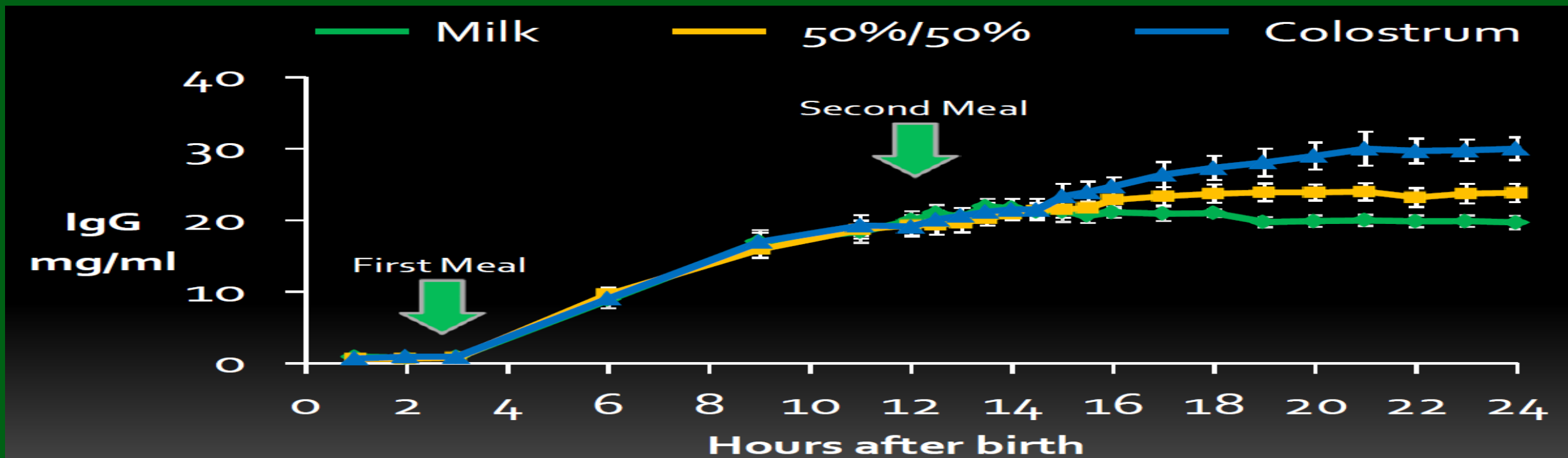
After the next parlour milking, the cow returns to the group bedded pen and the calf is transferred to the calf house. After 5 days cows are moved from the post-calving pen to the start up group in the cubicle house

Feed Colostrum as early as you can



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Keep feeding Colostrum at the second feed



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Hygiene

Group bedded pens cleaned every 3 weeks or more often if required. Passage scraper is run manually once a day.

Straw bale unwinder and spreader used to bed the pens daily.

Individual pens are cleaned / washed / disinfected / rested when the row of three have been used.