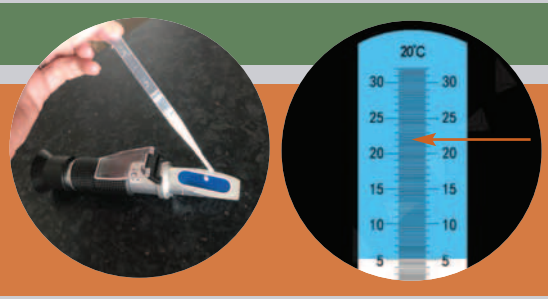
MONITORING COLOSTRUM QUALITY (ANTIBODY AND CLEANLINESS)

FENCOVIS®

ADVANCING PROTECTION AGAINST CALF SCOUR

	HOW	TARGET	WHY
ANTIBODIES	**Sample the colostrum at the point of feeding and use a Brix Refractometer** 1. Clean the Brix slide and calibrate to zero using water. Wipe dry. 2. Place 1-2 drops of colostrum onto the slide 3. Lower coverslip so colostrum spreads across slide 4. Look through eyepiece and read off scale  **> 22 % Brix = good quality** **<22 % Brix: A larger volume of the colostrum will have to be fed or discard the colostrum if higher quality colostrum is available.**	> 22 % Brix (This equates to > 50g/L)	Measuring antibody concentration is important to ensure there are enough antibodies available to provide good passive immunity to the calf. If poor quality colostrum is identified, steps can be taken to mitigate its impact and improve quality going forward.
CLEANLINESS	Take a sample of colostrum at the point of feeding[3] and ask your vet to send to a laboratory to measure total bacterial count and total coliform count.	TBC <100,000 CFU/ml[1] TCC < 10,000 CFU/ml[2]	Bacteria can reduce the absorption of antibodies. These bacteria can also cause disease in their own right (e.g. *E. coli,* Johnes, *Mycoplasma bovis*, *Salmonella spp*)

Glossary: 1. TBC = Total Bacterial Count. Estimate of the number of bacteria present in the sample. **2.** TCC = Total Coliform Count. Estimates the number of coliform bacteria present in the sample. Coliforms are specific type of bacteria (e.g. *E.coli*) and are a good measure of hygiene. **3.** 'At the point of feeding' means a sample taken from the feeding equipment (e.g. the bottle or stomach tube) as it is fed to calves. This accurately represents the colostrum that is actually being fed to calves.

Reference: Godden, S.M., *et al.*, 2019. Colostrum Management for Dairy Calves. Veterinary Clinics of North America - Food Animal Practice.

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FENCOVIS® suspension for injection contains inactivated *E. coli* expressing F5 (K99) adhesin, strain O8:K35, inactivated bovine rotavirus, serotype G6P1, strain TM-91, inactivated bovine coronavirus, strain C-197. UK: POM-V IE: POM. Advice should be sought from the prescriber. Further information available in the SPC or from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd., RG12 8YS, UK. Tel: 01344 746957, IE Tel: 01291 3985. Email: vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com. FENCOVIS® is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH, used under licence. ©2022 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd. All rights reserved. Date of preparation: Nov 2022. BOV-0164-2022. Use Medicines Responsibly.