



Our vision is to deliver superior animal health management solutions for our patients while providing value to our clients, a rewarding working experience for our practice team and support for our community. Our team is committed to delivering the highest quality of veterinary medicine and exceptional customer service with integrity, compassion and accountability. We strive to keep up to date with advances in veterinary medicine that will enable us to stay leaders in the deliverance of high quality veterinary services to our clients and their animals.

## Ontario Goat Gazette – Colostrum Management for Commercial Goat

### What is colostrum?

- Colostrum – rich in nutrients and antibodies – is produced by the doe in late pregnancy.
- Goat kids are born without any antibodies and rely totally on the colostrum feeding in the first day of life for disease protection in the first few weeks of life.

#### Why is colostrum necessary?

- Once colostrum is consumed the antibodies are absorbed through the small intestine and into the blood stream.
- Failure of passive transfer of immunity (FPT) is the term given to a newborn animal that has not received adequate immunity from the colostrum consumed. Ability to absorb antibodies begins to decline 30 minutes after birth. FPT can also be caused by poor quality colostrum.

#### Sourcing colostrum

- Do not feed pooled colostrum or colostrum that is runny, thin, contains blood, or comes from does with mastitis or that were treated with antibiotics.
- Commercial colostrum replacement products are of bovine origin, which may impact their effectiveness in helping kids build antibodies.

#### Collecting colostrum

- Use standard clean milking practices: wear gloves, clean the udder and ensure all milking equipment is sanitized before collecting colostrum.
- Collect colostrum within 15 minutes of kidding.
- Heat-treating colostrum can be an effective method to help control major production-limiting diseases such as Johne's disease and Caprine-Arthritis-Encephalitis (CAE).
- Bottles, buckets and nipples should be washed using soap and hot water (80°C). They should then be rinsed with a 10 per cent bleach solution. Let dry before using.

#### Storing colostrum

- Do not leave colostrum at room temperature as bacterial counts double every 20 minutes.
- Fresh colostrum can be refrigerated without degrading for up to 48 hours.
- Freezing colostrum should be standard practice. Package in 250 mL quantities in freezer bags or bottles and mark the date on the outside. Frozen colostrum is best used within six months.
- Colostrum should be thawed in a warm water bath around 50°C.

#### Feeding colostrum

- An average kid weighs approximately three kilograms (kg) at birth. The general rule for feeding colostrum is 50 mL per kg of bodyweight four times within the first 24 hours of life.

### Production



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# 10 Tips for Winterizing Your Horse

Whether your region's winter weather consists of cooler temps and occasional rains, or if you're in for months of frigid winds and endless snowfall, you can take steps to make the season more manageable. The Horse has formulated 10 veterinarian-approved tips for keeping your horse healthy and comfortable during the cold season. Check these off your to-do list before the temperatures plunge and the snow arrives.

**1 Blanket Maintenance** If your horse stays in work or competes during the winter, it might be necessary to body clip and blanket him. So dig out your blankets and rugs, make sure they're clean and in good repair, and check that they still fit well to prevent sores and hair loss.



**2 Assess Body Condition** Going into winter, it's important to evaluate your horse's body condition to determine if he's too fat, too thin, or just right. A healthy layer of fat over your horse's ribs both insulates and provides energy during cold months. Remember that it's easier and cheaper to improve your horse's body condition before mid-winter when you realize he's become thin.

**3 Check His Teeth** If your horse has developed sharp edges or uneven wear patterns on his teeth, he might not be receiving adequate calories to maintain his weight during winter. Have a veterinary dental practitioner evaluate and/or float your horse's teeth in the fall so you're not spending extra money on groceries in an effort to promote weight gain in the midst of (or immediately after) winter.

**4 Adjust Feed** Because horses' nutrient requirements increase with colder temperatures, you might need to adjust your horse's feed rations during this time to ensure he maintains adequate body condition. Routinely evaluate his condition (e.g., feeling over his ribs) and increase forage intake, rather than concentrates, as needed for increased calories. If you plan to ride less during winter, he might require less concentrate feed. Remember, however, to make any feed changes slowly to avoid gastrointestinal upset.

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Feeding a good-quality hay helps reduce colic risk and generate internal heat.



**5 Focus on Forage** Feeding good-quality hay at 1-2.5% of your horse's weight daily is key to sustaining a horse through winter with less risk of colic or weight loss and the added benefit of internal heat generation. Stock up on quality hay early, particularly in areas affected earlier in the year by drought, since supplies might be scarce.

**6 Care for the Coat** If your horse is not competing or going to be in steady work, go ahead and let his hair coat grow and thicken naturally to provide him with nature's intended insulation. However, avoid blanketing these horses with tight-fitting or heavy-duty rugs. These can flatten the hair coat, reducing its insulating effect.

**7 Tend to the Hooves** Horses that will not be in work during winter can benefit from having their shoes pulled, whereas those that still require shoes can benefit from borium studs or nails for additional traction and snow pads for reducing snow and ice accumulation. Before you turn any horse out for the winter, have your farrier give him a good trim.

**8 Promote Hydration** Inadequate water intake is a common cause of impaction colic in winter. Thus, check water heaters during the fall to make sure they're in working order, well-grounded, and that electrical wires are protected with chew-proof material such as PVC pipe. Providing free-choice trace mineralized salt can also encourage your horse to drink throughout winter. If your horse does not use his salt block, consider adding 1 tbs of table salt to his grain once or twice daily.

**9 Control Parasites** Although parasites might be less prevalent in cold climates during winter, it's still important to maintain a regular deworming plan. Work with your veterinarian to perform a fecal egg count to determine if deworming is needed. Consider administering an ivermectin-type dewormer after the first heavy frost to rid your horse of bot larvae that like to winter in horses' gastrointestinal tract.

**10 Update Vaccinations** Make sure your horse's vaccinations are up-to-date before winter hits, especially if your riding or competition plans involve traveling to indoor events where a number of horses are housed in close quarters. Here horses might be at an increased risk for developing respiratory disease. If you plan to travel, ask your veterinarian if vaccine boosters against infectious diseases such as influenza and rhinopneumonitis are needed.

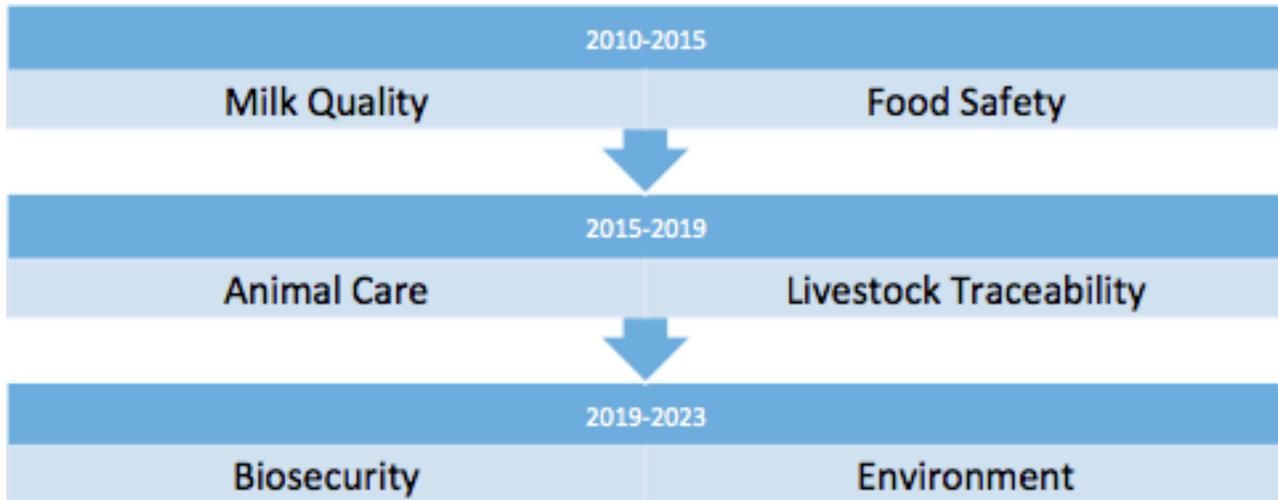


Check that blankets fit properly to prevent sores and hair loss.

Don't take your horse's health for granted this winter season—work with your veterinarian and farrier to formulate a wellness, hoof care, and feeding plan that will help ward off cold weather woes and ensure your horse exits the cold months in fine form. ◀

## ATTENTION DAIRY PRODUCERS: The Proaction Initiative

Through the proAction initiative, Canadian dairy farmers provide measurable proof of milk quality and safety, and work to continually improve animal health and welfare as well as environmental stewardship. The program will be rolled out in stages. Stay tuned for producer Proaction meeting dates this new year!



### 3 Animal Care



Treating animals well and providing excellent care comes naturally in the dairy industry. We all know that healthy cows are the most productive, require less work and are the most profitable animals on our farms.

Under proAction®, an animal welfare assessment program, based on the requirements in the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle* will prove to consumers dairy farmers meet high standards. The Code of Practice, (2009) under the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFAACC), with extensive industry and stakeholder input, reflects current and leading dairy management practices.

The code was distributed to every dairy farmer in Canada and is available at [www.dairyfarmers.ca](http://www.dairyfarmers.ca).

The assessment program is based on the Code and its soundness was tested on farms in 2013 and 2014. Official roll-out on Canadian farms is planned to start in 2015 and follow the CQM validation schedule.

### 4 Traceability



Currently, milk is traceable from farm to plate across Canada. However, the Livestock Traceability System does not yet span the entire food chain in Canada.

Product traceability – from the farm through to the consumer – builds trust with our customers. It is also one of the key attributes consumers value in a product, along with nutrition, consistency, taste and cost. Traceability is also important in maintaining the trust of trading partners, keeping markets open and gaining access to new markets.

Food distributors that have implemented traceability systems have found that costs can be reduced. Traceability helps to identify and eliminate logistical inefficiencies in the production, transportation and marketing system.

Farmers are familiar with tagging all of their cattle and maintaining those tags throughout an animal's life. Unfortunately, this information is not being fully used and maintained throughout the entire food production chain.

Governments are planning to regulate traceability across Canada to allow rapid response to animal health emergencies, avoiding heavy losses and a large-scale cull of animals. This would protect your farm and others from rapidly spreading animal disease.

With a traceability system, the origin of an agricultural product is known, along with the route it took, and any contact it had with animals or other products at various premises.

