CALVES ARE YOUR FARM’S FUTURE & THEY DEPEND ON COLOSTRUM FOR DISEASE PROTECTION.

They need high quality colostrum in adequate amounts to ensure immune protection (passive immunity). If a calf fails to receive colostrum, calf health decreases. Good colostrum starts with your dry cows.

METABOLIC STRESS COSTS YOU MONEY

The components of metabolic stress can decrease milk production and make cows more likely to get diseases - especially production-associated ones. Between a drop in milk, treatment and extra labor costs, metabolic stress can take a toll on your farm.

METABOLIC STRESS MAY LEAD TO POOR COLOSTRUM PRODUCTION & QUALITY

Current research focuses on the post-gestation impacts of metabolic stress, but what about the pre-parturient period? Does metabolic stress contribute to inadequate colostrum, which in turn results in poorer calf health? Considering cows prepare colostrum during the dry period, researchers at Michigan State think there may be a link between increased dry cow metabolic stress and decreased colostrum quantity and Ig concentration.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT THE FUTURE OF YOUR FARM?

If found to be significant, you will be able to predict colostrum quantity and quality BEFORE calving by sampling dry cow blood, which would allow you the opportunity to intervene with appropriate management strategies to improve colostrum production. This would lead to improving the health of the future of your farm - your heifer calves. Getting them off to a proper start will ensure that strong, health first calf heifers enter your milking herd.

References: