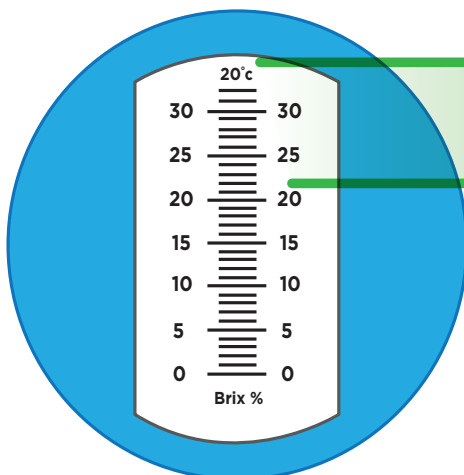
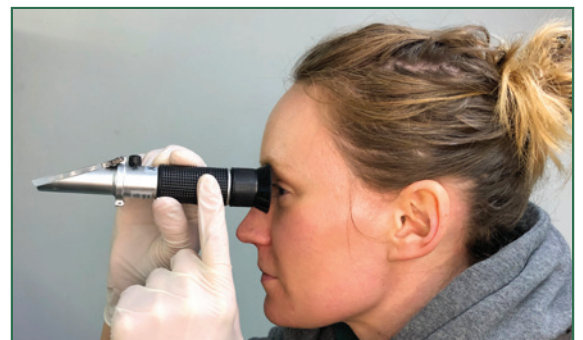


# Using a Brix Refractometer

Colostrum quality can be tested easily on a brix refractometer. The test results help you decide whether the colostrum contains enough antibodies (immunoglobulins) and therefore whether it is good enough to be used. Good quality colostrum is perfect for storing and saving for newborns. Brix refractometers are available online, a brix with a scale up to 32% is ample.

How to use the refractometer:

1. A refractometer should be calibrated before use. Put a couple of drops of room temperature water on the glass surface.
2. Lower the cover so the water spreads across the entire surface without any air bubbles or dry spots.
3. Hold the refractometer up to the light while looking down the eye piece.
4. As you look down the eye piece you will see a circular field with graduations down the centre. The scale should read zero where the light and dark areas meet. If not, adjust using the calibration screw at the front of the apparatus.
5. Wipe the surface clean with a soft cloth.
6. Place a drop of colostrum onto the glass surface, lower the cover and hold up to the light looking through the eyepiece.
7. Take a reading, for the colostrum.



The scale of a Brix refractometer

A reading of 22% and above means we have good quality colostrum, which can be used or stored.

Any colostrum that reads below 22% is of poor quality and will not supply enough antibodies to the newborn.

22% is equivalent to 50mg/ml immunoglobulin.