

Transition Milk

Commonly defined as the secretions from the first 6 to 10 milkings of the cow, true [colostrum](#) is obtained only from the first milking. The

secretions after the first milking and for 4-5 days after calving are transition milk. By about the sixth milking, the composition of transition milk is similar to that of whole milk as shown in the table on the left.

Item	Milking number (cows milked twice daily)					
	1	2	3	4	5	11
	Colostrum	----- Transition Milk -----				Whole Milk
Total solids, %	23.9	17.9	14.1	13.9	13.6	12.9
Total protein, %	14.0	8.4	5.1	4.2	4.1	4.0
Casein, %	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.2	2.9	2.5
Immunoglobulins, %	6.0	4.2	2.4	0.2	0.1	0.09
Fat, %	6.7	5.4	3.9	4.4	4.3	4.0
Lactose, %	2.7	3.9	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.9
Minerals, %	1.11	0.95	0.87	0.82	0.81	0.74
Specific gravity	1.056	1.040	1.035	1.033	1.033	1.032

for more information:

[Colostrum and The Newborn Calf](#), *the Progressive Calf Feeder*