
Jersey center
of excellence
One place to find the best Jersey knowledge

Goal



Find & share



Connect



Learn

How



1. Create a Jersey knowledge hub



2. Build an expert network

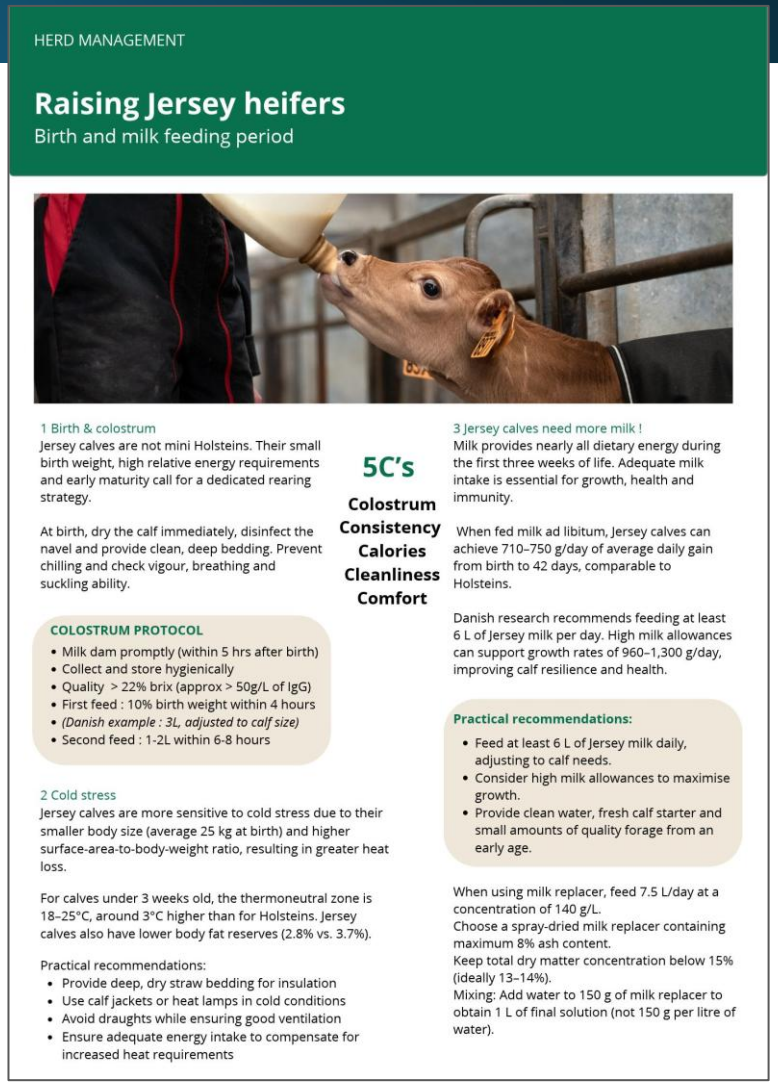


3. Knowledge exchange

How

1. Knowledge hub

- A comprehensive PDF guide summarising existing resources and making key information easily accessible to everyone.
- An online access to all available publications to go further : on the World Jersey website



HERD MANAGEMENT

Raising Jersey heifers

Birth and milk feeding period

1 Birth & colostrum

Jersey calves are not mini Holsteins. Their small birth weight, high relative energy requirements and early maturity call for a dedicated rearing strategy.

At birth, dry the calf immediately, disinfect the navel and provide clean, deep bedding. Prevent chilling and check vigour, breathing and suckling ability.

5C's

Colostrum
Consistency
Calories
Cleanliness
Comfort

COLOSTRUM PROTOCOL

- Milk dam promptly (within 5 hrs after birth)
- Collect and store hygienically
- Quality > 22% brix (approx > 50g/L of IgG)
- First feed : 10% birth weight within 4 hours
- *(Danish example : 3L, adjusted to calf size)*
- Second feed : 1-2L within 6-8 hours

2 Cold stress

Jersey calves are more sensitive to cold stress due to their smaller body size (average 25 kg at birth) and higher surface-area-to-body-weight ratio, resulting in greater heat loss.

For calves under 3 weeks old, the thermoneutral zone is 18–25°C, around 3°C higher than for Holsteins. Jersey calves also have lower body fat reserves (2.8% vs. 3.7%).

Practical recommendations:

- Provide deep, dry straw bedding for insulation
- Use calf jackets or heat lamps in cold conditions
- Avoid draughts while ensuring good ventilation
- Ensure adequate energy intake to compensate for increased heat requirements

3 Jersey calves need more milk !

Milk provides nearly all dietary energy during the first three weeks of life. Adequate milk intake is essential for growth, health and immunity.

When fed milk ad libitum, Jersey calves can achieve 710–750 g/day of average daily gain from birth to 42 days, comparable to Holsteins.

Danish research recommends feeding at least 6 L of Jersey milk per day. High milk allowances can support growth rates of 960–1,300 g/day, improving calf resilience and health.

Practical recommendations:

- Feed at least 6 L of Jersey milk daily, adjusting to calf needs.
- Consider high milk allowances to maximise growth.
- Provide clean water, fresh calf starter and small amounts of quality forage from an early age.

When using milk replacer, feed 7.5 L/day at a concentration of 140 g/L.
Choose a spray-dried milk replacer containing maximum 8% ash content.
Keep total dry matter concentration below 15% (ideally 13–14%).
Mixing: Add water to 150 g of milk replacer to obtain 1 L of final solution (not 150 g per litre of water).

How



2. Build an expert network

Establish a network of technical experts and experienced breeders in each member country to provide advice, answer technical questions, and share practical knowledge and experience.

How



3. Knowledge exchange

- Organise some « EJF Knowledge session » through webinars with technical experts. Records could then be available online.
- Share « practical tips » on SoMe