

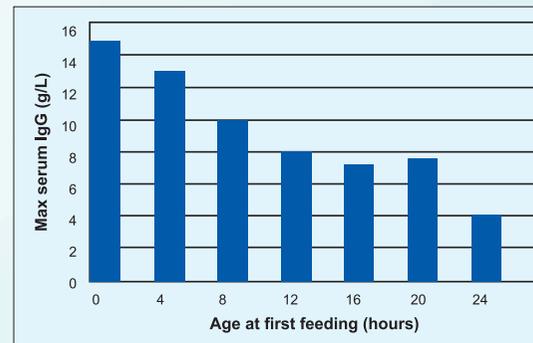
The future of animal farm depends on how the young calf is taken care of. Newborn calf is susceptible to various kinds of diseases and threat from predators if not taken care properly. Mithun animals are generally reared in free range system which make it difficult for mithun rearer to give proper care to their young animals. For keeping the young one healthy and to protect from diseases and predator given below methods should be followed:

### Care of newborn calf immediately after calving

1. The golden hours of calf is the first hours of calving which is the most critical period for the survival of the calf.
2. After the calf is born ensure that the calf is breathing.
3. Clean nostrils and mouth which helps the calf breathe better and help prevent future breathing problems.
4. Allow the mother to lick the calf clean as rough action of tongue promotes circulation within the calf's body and prepares the calf to stand up and walk.
5. Tie the navel cord with a thread at a distance of around 2 inches from the base and cut the remaining cord with a scissor.
6. Dip the navel in 7% or higher tincture of iodine solution and repeat after 12 hours. A poorly maintained navel is the gateway to serious infections.
7. A new born calf should be given colostrum within half an hour of birth as feeding colostrum after 24 hours of birth may not help the calf to ward off infections.
8. A calf must receive adequate colostrum to protect it from diseases for the first three months of its life. Colostrum is the calf's "passport to life".
9. Feeding of colostrum after 24 hours of birth will not provide adequate immunity to calf as its

absorption decreases very rapidly after birth.

10. Usually calf stand on their feet by half an hours of birth if not farmers should help the calf to stand and suckle from its mother.
11. Artificial colostrum must be prepared and fed to calf whose mother died. Artificial colostrum is a mixture of an egg, half litre of fresh warm water, half litre whole milk, one teaspoonful of castor oil/ cod liver oil.
12. If not suckling by its own then bottle feeding of calf should be done after milking from the mother.
13. Milk temperature should be between 101-105°F while feeding the calf by bottle. For the natural suckling calf get the milk from its mother directly so the milk is warm and there is no problem in digestion.



14. Chances of indigestion is more if cold milk is fed to calf and it may suffer from diarrhoea.



15. Milk should be fed to calf 2 times a day if bottle feeding has to be carried out one in morning and another in evening.
16. Provide calf starter from 2-8 weeks for better growth and maturity

### Composition of a simple calf starter:

- Maize-52 %
- Oats -20 %
- Soya bean meal -20 %
- Molasses -5 %
- Salt -0.5 %
- Minerals (Macro & Micro) -1.5%;
- Vitamins -1%



### Common causes of mortality in mithun calves:

1. Predators' attacks
2. Diseases

### How to prevent calf mortality?

1. Protection from predators:



- a. For protection of calf from predators and inclement weather calf shed should be constructed by using locally available materials.

## 2. Protection from diseases:

- a. Timely colostrum consumption by the calf is the key to receive immunity to fight against many diseases. Perfect time would be within first 30 minutes of birth.
- b. De-worming should be done within 10-14 days of age subsequently on a monthly basis up to the 6<sup>th</sup> month, thereafter once in three months. Over dose and under dose of deworming drugs should be prevented.
- c. Vaccination of calf should be done after deworming the calf. Follow the vaccination schedule properly for protection of calf from common diseases.



# CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG MITHUN CALVES



## Vaccination Schedule

Name of disease	Age at first dose	Booster dose	Subsequent dose
Foot and mouth disease	4 months and above	1 month after first dose	Six monthly
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	6 months and above	-	Annually in endemic areas
Black quarter	6 months and above	-	Annually in endemic areas

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Director, ICAR-NRC on Mithun,  
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## Compiled and Edited by:

L. Sunitibala Devi, S. S. Hanah, Kobu Khate  
M. H. Khan, Vikram R, H. Lalzampaia,  
Vivek Joshi, J. K. Chamuah, K. P. Biam,  
Kezhavituo Vupru, Nazrul Haque

## For further information

Email: [director.nrcmithun@icar.gov.in](mailto:director.nrcmithun@icar.gov.in)

Website: <https://nrcmithun.icar.gov.in>

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