

# ORGANIC



## organic farming technical summary

### Colostrum and Lambs

OFTS22

- Too many lambs do not get enough colostrum and the result is starvation, hypothermia, disease and death.

How much colostrum does a lamb need?

- In its first day of life a 4 kg lamb requires 960 ml (1.7 pints) if it is indoors or 1100 ml (1.9 pints) if it is outdoors.
- With some flocks having to be lambed outdoors, away from home, it will be important to ensure high intakes of colostrum are achieved if lamb losses are to be minimised.
- The colostrum requirements in the first day for a range of birth weights are shown in the following table:

Lamb birth weight		Total colostrum			
		Indoors		Outdoors	
kg	lb	ml	pts	ml	pts
2.5	5.5	600	1.1	700	1.2
3.0	6.6	720	1.3	840	1.5
3.5	7.7	840	1.5	980	1.7
4.0	8.8	960	1.7	1120	2.0

- For lambs that are not suckling, about 50ml/kg bodyweight per feed is needed.
- This means that a 4kg lamb needs 200 ml in four or five feeds during its first day.
- Where, however, the lambs are suckling but just appear empty, three feeds of 50ml/kg bodyweight should be sufficient.
- **Remember stomach tubes should be sterilised between each lamb and feed.**

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