Selenium Addition to Colostrum Increases Immunoglobulin G Absorption by Newborn Calves. By Kamada et al., page 5665. Newborn calves are very sensitive to pathogens because of their immature immune system. Therefore, for healthy growth during infancy, the immunoglobulin (Ig) supplied from maternal colostrum is an important factor. Here, we discovered that the addition of inorganic selenium to colostrum increased the IgG transfer to calf blood plasma. Applications of this technique to calves would also provide an immediate supply of selenium (essential mineral).