

COLOSTRUM. THE ELIXIR OF LIFE!

Colostrum, the first mammary secretion, is extraordinarily complex. It contains lactose, fat, and proteins in proportions that very quickly start to change from the end of farrowing (early colostrum), gradually changing into transitional milk.

FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, WE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN:

- Early colostrum (0 hours).
- Mid colostrum (12 hours).
- Late colostrum (up to 24 hours after farrowing).

Colostrum is considered to be the “elixir of life” because it contains an abundance of many different components that are important for the survival of newborn piglets.

In fact, piglet survival depends on colostrum intake during the first few hours of life for several reasons:

- First, colostrum provides newborn piglets with **passive immunity** originating in antigenic stimulation of the maternal immune system.
- Second, in addition to the transfer of immunity (immunoglobulins), colostrum serves other purposes, including the **provision of energy** and by **stimulating growth**.

