CONCLUSIONS

Seeing that the thresholds determined by this study (5.1094 g/dl for plasma-derived colostrum replacer, 5.2703 g/dl for maternal colostrum, and 5.2532 g/dl for lacteal-derived colostrum replacer) are comparable to ranges established by previous research, this study demonstrates there is no need for producers to utilize different cutoffs of serum total protein levels used to determine passive transfer status when using various colostrum replacement products. In agreement with previous research, this study shows the threshold of acceptable passive transfer is approximately 5.0 or 5.2 g/dl with no difference between the type of colostrum replacement product that is fed to calves. There is, however, a different relationship between serum total protein and immunoglobulin G levels resulting from acceptable passive transfer, no matter what type of colostrum replacer they invest in. In conclusion, commercial colostrum replacers can provide viable alternatives to producers looking to avoid using maternal colostrum on the basis of disease prevention, ensured quality/quantity of colostrum, or convenience offered, and producers can continue using their current threshold for acceptable passive transfer, no matter what type of colostrum replacer they invest in.

REFERENCES


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Please address correspondence to Dr. Patrick Pithua. Telephone: 15734894389, E-mail address: pithuap@missouri.edu