

**Welcome to our August 2025 edition.**

## **Launch of Expanded Get Funding to Improve Animal Health and Welfare Service**

**Get Funding to Improve Animal Health and Welfare Service** has now officially launched — including the much-anticipated **expansion to support multiple herds and flocks** of the same species.

You can explore the service and find the application process here:

 [Apply for an Animal Health and Welfare Review](#)

## **NEW CPD-CERTIFIED COURSE NOW AVAILABLE.**

CEVA are excited to announce their recent E-Shot series on High Quality Piglets in collaboration with Luis Sanjoaquin and is now available as a CPE certified online course!



Designed for Pig Producers, Vets and Vet Techs, committed to improving piglet survival and performance from birth. Complete the modules to receive your official CPD certificate!

[Click here to go to the course](#)

## **Boost Piglet Survival: Estimate Colostrum Intake for Better Outcomes**




In pig production, colostrum is the first critical investment in a piglet's life. Rich in immunoglobulins, energy, and nutrients, colostrum intake within the first 24 hours after birth plays a vital role in immunity, thermoregulation, and survival. Yet, in large litters or under commercial conditions, not all piglets receive enough leading to increased mortality and poor growth performance.

So how can producers ensure that each piglet receives enough of this "liquid gold"? One simple, practical approach is estimating colostrum uptake using plasma protein concentration.

## **Why Colostrum Matters**

Piglets are born without any antibodies, making them highly vulnerable to disease. Colostrum provides the only source of maternal antibodies, which can only be absorbed in the first 24–36 hours. Research shows that piglets need at least 200 grams and ideally 250g, when the supply is only 3.5kg on average (14 piglets of good supply). The essential role of colostrum during this period to thrive.

Insufficient intake is linked to:




-  Higher pre-weaning mortality
-  Poor growth rates
-  Weaker immune responses

One reliable and cost-effective way to estimate colostrum uptake is by measuring plasma protein levels in piglets at 24–36 hours old. Studies have shown a strong correlation between plasma protein and colostrum intake.

Using a simple ear prick sample on farm a rapid assessment of which animals need further support can be provided by our technician Brian and also help with overall management of your sows going forward, as colostrum volume can vary from 1.5kg to 6kg between individuals

## **Take Action Early**

The window to intervene is short. Monitoring colostrum intake gives producers a powerful tool to:

-  Identify at-risk piglets early
-  Improve survival and uniformity
-  Maximize return on sow performance

Colostrum isn't just a nutritional supplement—it's the foundation of piglet life. Make every gram count.

**Want to implement colostrum monitoring in your herd? Ask us how to get started with simple, reliable support tailored to your farm.**

## **Disinfection Update:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> July Virkon S was reinstated on the approved disinfectant list under general orders