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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

August Civic Holiday
Monday August 1st there will be no delivery service. Vet will be available for emergencies. Clinics will be open only in the morning for pick ups and early residue tests.

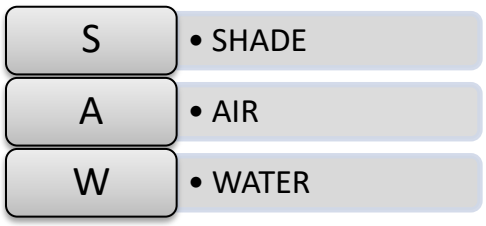
Heat Stress in Adult Cattle

Recognizing Heat Stress

Heat stress is a combination of environmental temperature **AND** humidity. A cow is able to handle warmer temperatures when humidity is low, but high humidity puts cows at risk of heat stress starting at lower temperatures. A normal body temperature for a healthy cow is between 101-102°F (38-39°C), heat stress begins when her temperature is above 102°F (39°C), and the effects of the stress depends on how long her body temperature remains too high. Heat stress is recognizable by a cow's behaviour – she will spend more time standing to increase the amount of skin exposed to air flow, decrease her feed intake and milk production, spend more time at the water source and actively avoid direct sunlight.

Importance to My Herd

Heat stress causes many problems for cattle – some are obvious and some are subtle, but all are important to the efficiency of your herd. Heat stress at any point in a cow's lactation will decrease her feed intake, lower her current milk production, and impair production for the next lactation. If the cow experiences heat stress in the transition period (3 weeks pre-calving, and 3 weeks post-calving), she is more likely to calve early, producing calves with significantly lighter birth weights and smaller average daily gains. On top of a slower growth rate, heifer calves born to a heat stressed cow have been shown to produce less milk at their first and subsequent lactations. A cow's immune system is already compromised in the fresh period, and heat stress furthers this problem leaving your fresh cows at greater risk of infection and poor health. Heat stress has also been shown to decrease cow fertility through lowered conception rates and increased early embryonic losses.



Methods of Cooling Cattle

The easiest way to remember how to cool cattle is: SAW

Shade: This is particularly important for cattle housed outdoors in the daytime. Protecting cattle from direct sunlight can lower body temperature and respiratory rates. Shades can be provided by trees, shelters, or buildings. For cattle housed indoors, shade becomes important if sunlight enters the barn and falls on laying areas or feed areas – cattle will actively avoid these areas in order to remain cool.

Air: **Air exchange** is important in the summer to remove moisture, heat, and pollutants from the animal's living space. Ideally, air should be exchanged every minute! This is often achieved through mechanical ventilation, or we depend on natural wind speed and direction. **Air circulation** is the air movement around cows which helps to transfer heat away from cattle, enhances evaporation, and minimizes heat accumulation. Ideally, air speeds should be 5.5-8 km/h in resting, feeding, and holding areas. This is often achieved through fans – there are many options for setting up your fans!

Water: Providing cool, fresh **drinking water** is incredibly important as cattle increase their water intake by 25% to prevent heat stress. Cattle tend to crowd water stations in hot weather so multiple stations that allow a few cows to drink at once are very helpful. **Evaporative cooling** is a great method to avoid heat stress as it uses evaporation to directly pull heat out of the cattle. The best method is intermittently spraying the backs of cattle with *large droplets* (to allow water to reach the skin and not sit on top of the hair) and allowing it to evaporate. The spraying can be done in several locations – in the holding area before entering the parlour, upon exiting the parlour before returning to the pen, and at the feed bunk.

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