



PROFIT POINTS

Managing Heat Stress in the Feedlot

Summer heat can reduce intakes and performance if not managed. Extreme heat can kill cattle.


Cattle will drink more than twice as much water when its 90°F compared to 70°F

The National Weather Service uses the following table to determine the heat index:

NWS Heat Index		Temperature (°F)															
		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
Relative Humidity (%)	40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
	45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
	50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
	55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
	60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
	65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
	70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
	75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
	80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
	85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
	90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127											
100	87	95	103	112	121	132											

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

Caution
 Extreme Caution
 Danger
 Extreme Danger



Factors that increase the risk of death loss from heat stress include:

- Daytime heat indices over 100°F
- Overnight heat indices over 80°F
- Newly arrived cattle
- Cattle being processed
- Black hided cattle
- Heavy cattle
- Finished cattle

The most valuable cattle (heavy, finished, black) are at the greatest risk of death loss.

Management practices that can reduce heat stress:

- Sprinklers to cool the cattle and pen surfaces
- Fine mist can raise humidity, use coarse drops
- Evaporation is what really cools the cattle
- Provide at least 2" of linear water space/head
- Have additional water tanks available
- Make sure your pump has enough capacity
- 20 ft² of shade or more per head
- East or Southeast facing pens
- Bedding will reduce heat from the pen surfaces
- Don't let windbreaks disrupt summer breezes
- Build mounds high enough so cattle can catch more breeze
- Feed MGA to heifers to reduce activity
- Higher energy rations produce less body heat
- Deliver feed in the evening
 - reduces heat from digestion
 - cattle eat in the coolest part of the day
- Don't receive, load or process cattle during high heat indices
- Sell finished cattle before it gets too hot

Emergency Actions to reduce death loss from heat stress:

- Apply water to cattle any way that you can
- Apply water to the pen surfaces – they can radiate heat of up to ~150° F to the cattle
- Allow automatic waterers to overflow
- Put additional open water tanks into the pens
- Get cattle under shade if possible, but don't restrict air movement
- Cold water enemas may help save down cattle

Quality Liquid Feeds
3586 Hwy 23 North
Dodgeville, WI 53533
1-800-236-2345
www.qlf.com

#PP-2014