

Can you **stop heat** from becoming a stress?



Calves

HEAT STRESS SIGNS

- Elevated respiratory rate above normal rate (24–36 breaths/min)
- Open mouth breathing
- Dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Calf body temperature >39.5 °C
- Reduced movement
- Increased standing time, lying less
- Reduced milk intake
- Reduced starter grain intake
- Increased water consumption
- Increased morbidity and mortality
- Reduced weight gain due to reduced grain intake and increased body maintenance needs

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- **Ensure there is a cool, shaded and ventilated resting place for the calf**
 - Plexiglas/plastic igloo type hutches can become saunas, straw bedding can retain heat
 - Sand, saw dust (wood shavings), rice hulls may be better
- **Large pieces of cloth can provide shade to reduce solar radiation**
 - Block at least 80% of UV light
- **High roofs that allow good aeration are good**
- **Elevate plastic hutches off the floor to increase air circulation**
- **Provide ample space around single calf pens/hutches to allow for good air circulation**
- **Reduce stocking density in group pens and ensure all animals can rest in the shade**

FEEDING AND NUTRITION

- **Ensure provision of good-quality water and grain**
 - **Ensure that calves consume all of their milk and offer a midday electrolyte drink**
 - Hydration is critical
 - **Provide access to water and feed in shade**
 - **Increase the morning feed volume**
 - **Delay the afternoon feed to evening**
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- **Feed Bio-Mos® or Actigen® to support calf gut function during periods of increased stress**