

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



Heifers

HEAT STRESS SIGNS

- Increased standing time and congregating
- 9% drop in dry matter intake
- 22% reduction in weight gain
- Reduced bulling activity and conception rate
- Blood acid-base imbalance
- Respiratory alkalosis risk

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- Add shade with tarps/roofing
- Increase shade, ventilation and cooling
- If outside, ensure access to natural shade
- Housing should allow heifers to be grouped in small groups to minimise stress and competition at feed bunk

FEEDING AND NUTRITION

- **AD LIBITUM** feed, always!
- Ensure uniformity of mixed and delivered rations
- Minimise feed sorting (low SARA risks)
- **NO** restriction of access to feed and water
- Shift feeding times to cooler parts of the day (evening/night)
- Parasite management — parasitic infection can increase energy requirements by up to 10%
- **Keep the animal healthy:**
 - Improve rumen function (e.g., addition of dietary live yeast)
 - Select higher quality forages
 - Use the more digestible feed ingredients (lower heat production during digestion)
- **Choose the right type of starch:**
 - Corn grain and fermentable starch
- **Sugar 6–7% DM**
- **Forages: good quality (no visibly mouldy or poorly fermented forage) and digestible (high energy value)**
- **Pre-pubertal dietary CP: 14–15%**
- **Post-pubertal dietary CP: 13–14%**
- **Soluble protein: overall >30–35% of the CP**
- **Ensure ammonia supply for rumen bacteria to satisfy their requirements**
 - Maintain consistent rumen NH₃ level throughout the day
- **Satisfy the highest requirements for minerals:**
 - Calcium, magnesium (for bone growth, milk production and muscle function)
 - Sodium (for generating energy and nutrient absorption)
 - Potassium (for acid-base balance)
 - Iodine
 - Manganese
 - Zinc
- **Feed YEA-SACC® to help stabilise the rumen environment and optimise function**
- **Feed OPTIGEN® to increase dietary nitrogen density while maintaining consistent rumen NH₃ levels and intake levels**