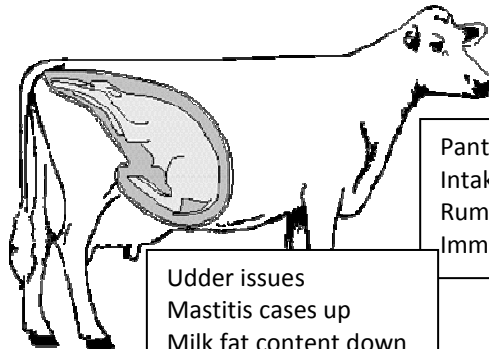


Newsletter August 2019

Management of Heat Stress in Cattle

Clinical signs?

Fertility problems
Heat undetectable
(shorter, no signs)
No proper cycle

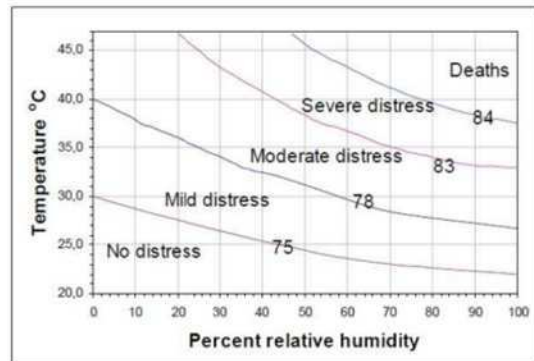


Panting ++
Intake down
Rumination down
Immune system down

Udder issues
Mastitis cases up
Milk fat content down
Protein content down

When?

- Relative humidity temperature index > 75 beginning of heat stress for dairy cattle
- 24° C in stormy conditions
- 29° C in dry conditions
- Particularly obvious in cows with underlying problems (chronic pneumonia, lungworms)



Management

General:

- Mechanical ventilation with fans, misting (limit excessive temperature in the building)
- Ensure a sufficient supply of water (quantity, quality)
- Distribution of the diet in the evening or feed twice a day (limit the extra heat of the rumen and the peaks of fermentation)
- Add water to the ration (limit the sorting after drying of the ration)
- Increase the Cation Anion balance (limit acidosis problems)



Acute cases:

- Move the cow to the shade, hose with fresh water
- Treat underlying problems
- Drench with Pump Selekt Restore sachets

FARMERS MEETING - CALVING THE COW

The next FVSW Farmer Meeting on Calving the Cow will be held at **2pm on Wednesday, 21st August**. The meeting will include a theory and a practical session with refreshments provided throughout.



Topics covered include:

- When to intervene, recognising different stages of labour
- How to intervene
- Practical top tips
- Unusual presentations and how to approach them
- Calf resuscitation and immediate post calving care.

The meeting is being held at **Collum Farm, Collum Lane, Kewstoke, Weston-Super-Mare BS22 9YX** by kind permission of Mr H J Bult & Son. Mr Bult has lots of cows due in August so hopefully we will have a real time calving demonstration during the meeting. The meeting is free to Beef Club Members, £40 to non-members. Please contact any of our offices to book your place.

Dry Period Management at Grass

There are different options for managing dry cows in summer and all can work successfully with care. Grazing can work well but care must be taken to graze on pastures which are likely to be lower in Potassium. These will be older pastures (>5 years old) that have received little or preferable no slurry or fertiliser and richer in "invader" grass species such as Meadow Fescue and Timothy. The high Potassium levels of fast growing Ryegrass predispose dairy cows to Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) which as well as being a significant problem in its own right will, in turn, predispose to mastitis.



Absolute access to grass should be limited as we need to be in control of energy density of the dry cow ration. A system that works well is splitting the dry cow paddocks into 3. The dry cows are then rotated through the paddocks every 2 weeks, allowing 4 weeks of rest between rotations. This gives the pasture a chance to decontaminate between use as most mastitis bugs will be desiccated following 4 weeks of summer weather. The close up dry cows (<3 weeks pre-calving) will benefit from buffer feed of straw or round bale silage to avoid fresh grass as far as possible. In reality they are often better off being housed on a complete diet. Remember to use a pour on insecticide like Swish to



August Bank Holiday

Our offices will be shut on Monday, 26th August 2019.
Drugs can be collected from our Sedgemoor Office **by appointment only**.



Your local farm veterinary service

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Yarcombe

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5 Larchfield Industrial Estate
Dowlsh Ford, Ilminster
Somerset, TA19 0PF
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