

Adams Advanced Nutrition, Inc.

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Coping with summer...

Heat stress occurs when a dairy cow's heat load is greater than her capacity to dissipate the heat. Cows exhibit signs of heat stress in several ways, such as increased respiratory rates, water intake and sweating, decreased dry matter intake and slower rate of feed passage, decreased blood flow to internal organs, decreased milk production, and poor reproductive performance. Ultimately, these can have an economic impact on any dairy. The severity of heat stress is measured by using a temperature humidity index (THI), which uses both temperature and humidity to calculate the theoretical level of stress to the animal. Signs of heat stress can be seen when the THI exceeds 72 (for example, 81° F with 30% relative humidity = 72 THI).

It is critical that cows "cool off" when the weather is hot and humidity is high! This will help reduce the negative effects of heat stress. While we cannot control weather-related factors, we can provide ways to alleviate the impact of heat and humidity on livestock, such as:

1. Sprinklers and fan cooling systems
2. Continuously available fresh, clean water
3. Shade
4. Appropriate rations for times of heat stress

Areas that require special attention may include:

- ◆ Holding pen – often a place where cows are crowded and heat gets trapped around the animals with little relief. Ensure adequate shade and ventilation, and examine ways to reduce the amount of time they spend in this area!
- ◆ Exit lane cooling – an excellent place to use sprinklers as cows leave the parlor.
- ◆ Freestalls and feeding areas – cows spend most of their time here. This area needs to provide adequate ventilation and a continual source of fresh water. Additional cooling may be obtained with fans, shade or sprinklers, etc. It is important to ensure that bedding does not become wet.

Last, but of critical importance is the cow's diet. Changes in ration formulations and summer feeding procedures can help to reduce the effects of heat stress on dairy cows. Any changes should be made slowly and preferably prior to the onset of hot weather. One of the goals is to ensure the cows maintain dry matter intake. Rations should safely accommodate the need for additional energy and possibly undergo a reduction in highly soluble proteins. "Cool off" your cows this summer. I can help you to implement or improve your summer program for maximum results. Call today and be proactive before hot weather arrives!

(edited from *Dairy Management Strategies to Control Heat Stress*, Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension, 2005)



Preserving forages for results!

In many locations the first cutting of hay is in process (or recently completed). When and how you cut [grasses and/or alfalfa] is critical to the nutrient value of your hay, along with ensuring it is dried properly prior to baling. In addition to these management-related functions, it is important to treat hay for maximum

preservation and nutritional quality at feed out. Treating your hay with a quality, research-tested preservative during baling can help reduce spoilage and mold growth, while maintaining nutritional quality. **FRESHCUT**®, by KEMIN, is excellent for use with hay! It can help to optimize your hay production and ultimate quality.

It is equally important to treat your haylage with a quality preservative or inoculant. Many producers make haylage throughout the growing season. Haylage, whether made from grass, alfalfa or small grains often contains undesirably high or low levels of moisture. This can result in less than ideal fermentation that may lead to decreased intake and/or animal performance. In order to reduce the likelihood of these occurrences, as well as to help maintain nutrient content, preservatives and inoculants become an investment rather than a cost. Improved preservation of haylage is important to the nutrition of your herd, as well as their health and productivity. We offer **BUCHNERI 40788**® and **BUCHNERI 500**®, **PLUS II**®, and **BIOCROP**® from Biotal, as well as **KEMPLAC**®, **SILAGESAVOR**® & **SILAGESAVOR PLUS**® (dry and liquid), and **TOP SAVOR**® from Kemin. Get all the facts and invest in a quality preservative or inoculant this season before you chop haylage... and appreciate the benefits next fall and winter. It can make a difference!

Renaissance ~ The Team for Results Year-Round!

Water...

Do you have sufficient water for your entire herd? This summer, make sure you have fresh clean water available at all times, and clean all waterers on a regular basis. Your cows AND calves will benefit from this all summer long. More in the next issue!

Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Call me! My goal is to help you. That's Renaissance's commitment to you!

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RENAISSANCE...

20 Years of Quality

Nutrition & Service!



June is Dairy Month!

"THANK YOU"... for all you do each and every day in providing high quality milk and dairy products that help feed our country and the world! This month has been set aside to honor your efforts and recognize the outstanding job you do. Everyone at Renaissance Nutrition joins me in saying thanks... for a job well done! I am here to do provide "Solutions for Success" today and every day.



Thank You!



WHAT'S IT LIKE AROUND THE FARM?

Proper ventilation is critical throughout times of summer heat and humidity, as well as during winter months. Regardless of the season, there are four important considerations when it comes to ventilation in facilities. These include: air exchange, air control, flexibility and building construction. Air exchange is simply the replacement of inside air with outside air, either by use of fans or "naturally" with wind and a continual flow of air through a facility. Control is necessary when either external or internal conditions warrant it. This can be as simple as turning fans on or off... or controlling the position of sidewall curtains, etc. You also need flexibility to better accommodate cow comfort year-round, along with ensuring your facilities are constructed in such a way as to enhance ventilation and maintain a quality environment for your entire herd. Maximize ventilation this summer and help keep your cows "cool." You will appreciate their continued performance all summer long... all year long!

(edited from an article on barn ventilation by Susan Wood Gay, Virginia Tech Extension – 2002)

A POINT TO PONDER...

School is out! The crops are planted. Hay-making is underway. Now, it's time for summer activities and summer fun! It's easy to let yourself become too busy in the summer with the ever-increasing list of chores and necessities to accomplish around the farm. We often don't take time to relax... and be refreshed. This summer, plan [on a regular basis] to spend time enjoying family and friends! If you plan ahead, the chores will get done and you'll still have time for other activities. It can make a difference!



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*Summer Heat & Humidity....
Cooling off the cows!
Preserving hay & haylage...
Check it out.*

