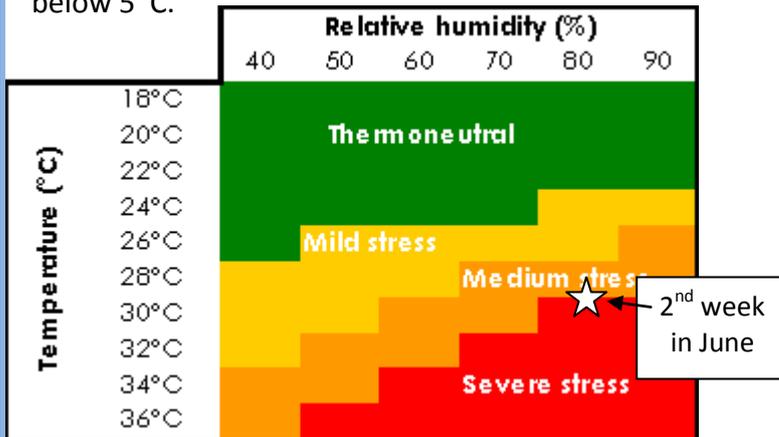




Heat Stress

It is now actually drizzling but since the end of May we have seen spells of incredibly high temperatures with extended periods of high humidity. You might say a classic English summer! As we discuss year on year, this is the type of weather that we are not really set up to deal with. Our European and Global counterparts have extended periods of hot temperatures and therefore have devoted time and resources to managing the effects that it has on performance such as sprinkler systems and temperature triggered fans.

A cow's comfort zone is between 5 and 25°C with moderate humidity but they are very happy well below 5°C.



As you can see from the graph but also from your herd's performance recently that over 22°C, cows DMI drops leaving waste at the feed face and behaviours start to change. Increased amounts of time are spent queuing for water and ventilation and less time is spent eating and lying down.



Short periods of high heat and humidity impacts cow performance because they will start to:

- pant with tongues out and sweat using up to 20% more energy
- reduce dry matter intake by between 10 and 30%

The end result of this is lower energy levels which impacts the quality of eggs being produced – these eggs are then ovulated over the next 100 days meaning a long term negative impact on conception rates. Cows that are served during this weather and in the following 100 days are far more likely to return. Cysts are also increasingly seen during these summer months due to varying DMI.

What can we do? :

- Get **fans** on where possible and increase ventilation. Open solid doors and lift blinds
- Ensure cattle have adequate **shade** and **fly repellent** especially when at grazing
- Ensure **water troughs** are:

1. **Clean** with fresh water supply

Many tip over troughs are not used to their full potential – tip them over and give them a scrub weekly to avoid it becoming a big job



2. Constantly **full/filling** – this means water is always available when needed and will not restrict intake

3. **Enough troughs** to avoid competition /dominance – talk to us about how to measure the number required for each shed

Whilst this weather is often short lived we will see the effects for months down the line and so it is worth making some adjustments to reduce the impact. Remember; when we think it is warm enough for a BBQ, livestock are already over heating. Getting a thermometer that also indicates humidity in the sheds is that first starting point – you cannot change what you don't measure!

TB TESTS

Just a little reminder regards 'missing' animals at TB tests:

In order for us to submit a TB test to APHA as complete we must reconcile all the animals tested with the animals listed on CTS records. Often there are more animals on CTS than on farm and normally there is a valid explanation such as a recent death and delayed updating of CTS.

However, when we submit a reason for an animal not being tested on our TB test chart, this information does not feed back to CTS. It is the farm's responsibility to keep the CTS records accurate and current. Otherwise, the annoying situation can occur that the same old cows (which have been dead for years!) keep reappearing at every test.

From 1st July, if animals are submitted as dead/not at location and this does not match with your CTS records then the following actions will be triggered:

1 - A letter will be sent from APHA informing the farm of the discrepancy and asking them to update their CTS

2 - 21 days after the letter is sent the case will be referred to BCMS if not resolved and movement restrictions will be placed on the farm with possible financial penalties incurred

Take Home Messages....

KEEP CTS UP TO DATE

IF YOU TELL US AN ANIMAL IS DEAD OR SOLD AT A TB TEST THEN UPDATE BCMS ASAP



British Cattle
Movement Service

On Farm Medicine Disposal – Dairy, Beef and Sheep Units

With the season for farm inspections in full flow it is time to get farm protocols in order. In order to comply with Red Tractor and crucially DEFRA guidelines

ALL LIVESTOCK PREMISES MUST HAVE A YELLOW SHARPS BIN AND GRIFF BIN to dispose of used needles and the bin for medicine bottles. The cost of purchase includes returning the container to us for licensed disposal. It couldn't be easier! To help get everyone compliant with the rules we are running an offer again this summer:

Throughout JULY AND AUGUST

Buy a 27 Litre Bottle Bin and a 2 Litre sharps bin for just £60 +VAT

This is a saving of nearly £20 and for a lot of you these two containers will last a very long time. Remember don't put the lid on until it's full!

Ring the Office today to order your summer deal!



FLIES...

With the variable weather and warmer days after what was a relatively mild winter, the flies are back with a vengeance. At this time of year we often hear reports about products seeming ineffective against flies and other flying parasites. Whilst this may be the case it is likely that application and timing are also part of the problem.

It is essential for welfare, production and disease prevention such as summer mastitis, new forest



eye and fly strike that we get a grip on control.

There are masses of options out there all of which report

different lengths of action and application. Where you have tried one it is worth discussing other options and trying a different application such as Pour on vs. Ear tags. These can also be useful if you have wooded boundaries or significant eye problems.

Meetings

Dairy KPI Meeting

Fertility and Production Review
Heifers – Worth the Investment?

WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2017

11am - 2pm at Quedgeley
Lunch will be provided