

Prevent Heat Stress in Dry Cows Equals \$\$\$

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Cattle are the most comfortable when the temperature is between 40 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. As the temperature and humidity rise, cattle become stressed and performance often drops. For the milking herd, cows often eat less feed and consequently milk production falls. Providing cattle with shade, water, fans and sprinkler systems decrease the stresses of the heat. Dry cows and bred heifers also suffer from heat stress through decreased calf birth weights and lower production the upcoming lactation. Cooling dry cows and springing heifers with the fan and sprinkler systems in the holding pen or barn lot once a day can help decrease the problems associated with heat stress.