



WHAT TO DO DURING EXTREMELY HOT WEATHER

Extremely hot conditions

Heat stress occurs when an animal is unable to dissipate heat or becomes overwhelmed, and the animal's performance or health suffers as a result. Heat stress can greatly impact cattle producers through decreased milk production and subsequent calf growth, decreased reproductive performance in livestock and decreased stocker and feeder performance.

The following strategies can be applied for livestock during very hot conditions:

1. Identify animals that are most susceptible to heat stress.
2. Develop an action plan for heat stress.
 - Animals in heat stress need to drink water.
 - Move the animals' feeding time to late afternoon or evening.
 - Provide shade if possible. Air movement also promotes animal cooling.
 - Cool the ground and the animals gradually and add bedding to the ground (this will reduce the ground temperature).
 - Control flies as much as possible.
 - Do not work cattle during extreme temperatures.
 - Pay attention to long- and short term weather forecasts and keep a copy of the temperature humidity index chart handy.
 - Insure crops/livestock against financial loss due to heat stress.

Strategies for crop production during very hot conditions

- Do not irrigate during the day as more water will evaporate, instead irrigate early in the morning.
- Select heat and drought resistant crops for the region and area in which you are farming.
- Use mulch to minimise evaporation.

For more information or assistance, contact:

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(assist with major disasters and link up various stakeholders in the event of a disaster):

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Alternatively, contact your district Sustainable Resource Use and Management (SRUM), Agricultural Producer Support and Development (APSD) or State Veterinary Office:

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