



Dairy Details

June 2019

Editor: Lindsey Borst DVM

NORTHERN VALLEY DAIRY PRODUCTION MEDICINE CENTER

Beat the Heat: Don't Forget About Your Dry Cows this Summer

It FINALLY feels like Summer! After what seems like the longest, coldest Winter ever, we deserve some nice, mild weather. But, before you know it, after complaining about the cold for months, we will be complaining that it's too hot outside. And it won't only be too hot outside for us, but for our animals as well. While most dairy farms have plenty of fans and sprinklers in their lactating cow facilities, the dry cows often don't get those same perks.

Researchers are learning more and more about the different ways that heat stress affects dry cows. One study showed that cows that were heat stressed during their dry period had a production decrease of up to 11 pounds per day for up to 30 weeks post-calving. The placental effects of heat stress can lead to smaller calves being born as well as less healthy calves. When a dry cow is hot, so is the fetus that she is carrying. This heat alters the calf's metabolism and gene expression, which in turn affects the calf's health and future performance. One study showed that heifers that came from cows that were heat stressed in the dry period had decreased milk production in their first lactation. And we all know that our fresh cows are the most immune depressed animals on our farms. Dry cows that are heat stressed are more likely to have further suppressed immune systems post-calving, which can lead to health problems such as retained placentas and mastitis.



According to recent NAHMS data, 75% of dairy producers provide fans for their lactating cows, but only 47% provide fans for their dry cows. In fact, at many farms the dry cows are often forgotten about somewhere out in the back 40. This means many dairy producers are leaving money on the table.

Cooling systems for your dry cows are worth the investment. Considering adding fans and maybe sprinklers to your dry cow facility. If your dry cows are housed outdoors in the summer and their main cooling system is shade from trees, make sure they have at least 4 square feet of shade available per head.

CHECK US OUT ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND [DAIRYMED.COM!](#)

Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center

Don't Forget about Breeding Soundness Exams in Your Bulls!

As beef producers are in the midst of calving season, their top priority is most likely the health of their new calves and momma cows. But, don't forget to check up on the other half the equation- your bulls! Performing a BSE on your bull before putting him out with your cows ensures that he will be able to get his job done getting cows pregnant and will prevent any unwanted open surprises at Fall Pregnancy check. This is a service that our practice offers if you are interested. Please call our office for more information.



We are excited to see all our wonderful customers on JUNE 12th at our customer appreciate lunch! Please mark you calendars!

CHECK US OUT ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND [DAIRYMED.COM](#)!

Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center