

With the extreme heat, the University of Minnesota Extension recommends ensuring your livestock and poultry have plenty of shade and a fresh water supply at all times. Extension also recommends feeding animals in the evening and if possible, sprinkling animals with water to cool them. Here are a few other things to keep in mind:

- Increase water capacity and water access: plan on two inch linear space water trough per head
- Provide extra water for consumption
 - Water consumption should be first priority for water use, before sprinkling
 - Clean water tanks to encourage intake
- Install sprinklers-The point is to wet the ground more so than wetting the cattle. It is best to wet the ground before the peak heat of the day.
 - Set up sprinklers to cover ground and/or cattle (ideally about 20 square feet) per head
 - The combination of wind movement and sprinkling are ideal.
- Intensify fly control around bunks and laying areas
- Do not increase feed offerings aggressively (perhaps maintain intake for 3 days before increasing)
- If feeding once a day, feed after 4 p.m. If feeding twice a day, feed 30 percent of total offering before 7 a.m., and 70 percent of total offering after 4 p.m.
- Apply dry bedding in high areas (where winds may increase cooling) or near shades
- Wetting down newly applied bedding should help cool cattle
- Abstain from moving cattle unless absolutely necessary
- Ensure airflow through pens. This could include removing obstructions such as bales, wagons, trailers, etc. Cut weeds around pens to improve airflow.

The United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Resource Service offers an online tool to determine heat stress. The website is www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=21306. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture recommends contacting your county emergency management director if you need assistance locating emergency water supplies for livestock.

Producers dealing with animal mortalities associated with any catastrophic heat event can contact the Minnesota Board of Animal Health for information, advice, and tips. Proper disposal of animal carcasses is important to prevent disease transmission. Carcasses from domestic animals must be disposed of as soon as possible after death, usually within 48 to 72 hours. To find a staff member in your area, please log on to Board's website at <http://www.bah.state.mn.us/bah/board/files/ag-specialists.pdf>.

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