

County Farm Centre Ltd.

August 2013

Picton

38 Cold Storage Rd.
 Store: (613) 476-2171
 Crops: (613) 476-9183
 Fuel: (613) 476-1613

Foxboro

552 Ashley St.
 Store: (613) 962-0769
 Fuel: (613) 961-0731

Madoc

278 Lawrence St. W
 Store: (613) 473-9040
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www.countyfarmcentre.com

BE SURE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR
 QUALITY SEEDS EARLY BOOKING PROGRAM

10% OFF UNTIL
 AUGUST 31ST, 2013

ON 2014 SEED ORDERS



Agronomy Corner

Hay Fertilizer - Fall is the time to put fertilizer on your hay field to give it the required nutrients for the next growing season. See the table below for the amount of nutrients removed in a crop of alfalfa. Remember these numbers should be multiplied by the yield and number of cuts taken.

Nutrients Removed in Alfalfa (lb of nutrient/ton of alfalfa)

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
56	15	60

GPS Soil Samples – After your wheat comes off is an excellent time to get your fields GPS soil sampled. Soil sampling is the first step in Precision Ag and leads to pinpointing problem areas and site-specific recommendations. Once the samples are done, variable rate fertilizer can be applied.

Keep in mind fall is an excellent time to apply Potash and rebuild your levels.

Visit us at the
2013 Hastings County Plowing Match & Farm Show

Hosted by Doug Parr and Bruce Philp
 255 Fairgrounds Rd, Stirling
 August 21st and 22nd



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County Farm Centre

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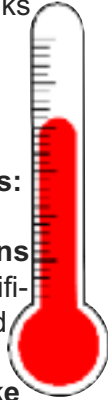
Feed Section

Indications of heat stressed cows:

- Feed intake declines (dry matter intakes are reduced)
- Milk production decreases
- Milk fat percentage declines
- Cows stand more and are less active
- Cows tend to crowd together around water tanks
- Panting and open mouth breathing is seen
- Body temperatures increase
- Water intake increases

Tips for feeding under heat stress conditions:

- Remember that **environmental alterations** have a larger impact compared to dietary modifications (Air movement - fans, sprinklers and shade).
- Formulate rations for a **lower dry matter intake** (cows can consume greater than 15% less feed). Therefore reduce dry matter intakes (for example from 24 kg to 21 kg) to reflect the reduced appetites. Ensure greater than 8-12% on the top screen of your shaker box (but watch for increased sorting when the top screen's percentage increases). This will worsen the risk for acidosis. Diets should contain a minimum of 30% NDF with 70% from high quality forages. Keep starch levels below 25% to reduce the risk for acidosis.
- **AMTS inputs** should be altered to reflect the changes in the environment. Increase temperature from 20 to 30 (plus) degrees Celsius and the relative humidity from 50 to 90% (or more). This will reduce the dry matter intake in the ration (around 5%). Further reductions can be made manually to reflect the severity of the dry matter reduction.
- **Feeding behavior changes.** Heat stressed cows will consume fewer meals in the day. Feeding bouts are clustered into fewer larger meals in the morning and evening. Therefore feed delivery should reflect these changes. Also, remember the feed is going to heat up in the bunk (the addition of acids and bunk stabilizers such as **TMR Enhance-R** will be beneficial). Depressed appetites will be further impacted if the cow puts her nose into "hot" feed. The change of feeding behavior pushes cows towards a "slug feeding" scenario which greatly lowers rumen pH leading to increased sub-acute and acute **rumen acidosis**.
- Cows drink more water, sweat and pant which alters their electrolyte balance. Therefore they lose potassium and sodium in response to heat stress. **Increase potassium** to 1.5% or greater of the diet dry matter. Utilize potassium carbonate instead of potassium chloride to impact the DCAD in a favourable manner. Increased



potassium carbonate also aids in decreasing "bad" rumen bugs that lower milk fat percentage.

- **Increase sodium** to 0.5% of the diet dry matter. This should be achieved by feeding approximately 115 grams per head per day and 230 grams or more sodium bicarbonate. Magnesium should be 0.35% of the diet dry matter or greater. **Magnesium** buffers the rumen and also counteracts increased dietary potassium levels that inhibit magnesium absorption from the rumen.
- **Decrease protein** content of the ration. Excess protein increases the workload of the liver and kidneys to excrete the extra nitrogen. Rumen degradable protein should not be overfed during the summer months. Limit total diet crude protein to 17% with about 60% of the protein from rumen degradable sources. The best way to achieve this and maintain milk production is to evaluate the amino acid balance of the diet.
- **Increase fat levels** in the ration from 3 to 4% (from saturated sources of fat- Jefo, Palmit 80 or Energy Booster). Fats are more energy dense than fermentable carbohydrates such as corn, wheat and barley and reduce increases in body temperature.
- Other **additives**. Yeasts or yeast cultures, rumen buffers (such as Min-Ad) and low levels of rumensin can be beneficial during heat stress. Limit rumensin to 8 ppm, as monensin can negatively impact milk fat at higher concentrations.
- Note - even though barley is widely available and inexpensive at the moment, **resist the urge to feed additional barely**. It's just too fast of a carbohydrate source.
- **Water** is the most important nutrient to minimize heat stress. Drinking water draws heat away from the body and helps cows feel cooler. Water intakes can increase 50% above normal levels during heat stress.

Written by Gary Cottee, Masterfeeds

- IN-STORE NEWS -

It's
COUPON
time!

Get ready to **SAVE!** The County Farm Centre Fall Coupon book runs from August 1st - 17th. Great deals on everything from pet supplies to oil.

Clearance on many seasonal items.

Find great deals on **lawn, garden** and **patio** accessories. Come in and see what we have available.

