

## Beat the Heat

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Whew! July has been a hot month with temperatures between 80°F and 90°F. While humans have the ability to beat the heat with access to air conditioning, most animals do not. Heat stress isn't just a consideration for people, but for animals as well. When temperatures "exceed 77-78°F, most animals will suffer from heat stress" (Zhao, 2014, p. 1).

Animals of all kinds, including livestock and domesticated pets, are susceptible to heat stress. Symptoms of heat stress include "elevated respiration rates, abnormal body temperatures, feed avoidance, playing with water and crowding into shaded areas" (Zhao, 2014, p. 1).

There are several strategies you can implement in order to assist your animals during periods of higher temperatures. Provide your animals with the opportunity to increase their consumption of fresh, clean water. Supply adequate shade to block "the solar radiation heat that falls on animals" (Zhao, 2014, p. 2). Providing cool surfaces for animals to lay on is also a good strategy to prevent heat stress. Circulation or cooling fans can also be beneficial because "in high-temperature environments, high-speed air movement is needed to increase heat loss of animals" (Zhao, 2014, p. 3).

With livestock animals, heat stress can cause economic impacts due to decreases in production performance, health impacts, and in some cases higher mortality rates. The comfort zones for layers is between 55°F and 70°F. Pigs prefer temperatures to be between 50°F and 70°F, while the comfort zone for cattle is 40°F to 60°F.

By incorporating strategies to decrease the impacts of heat stress, you and your animals can have a more enjoyable and profitable summer. Remember water, shade, and circulation of air are key factors to help prevent heat stress during warm weather.

References: Zhao, L. (2014). Abate Animal Heat Stress in Hot Weather. Retrieved from <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/AEX-151>

### Upcoming Events:

The Highland County Ohio State University Extension Office will host the second **Monthly Extension Programming** on July 25, 2018, at the Ponderosa Steakhouse in Hillsboro at 10:00

A.M. The guest speaker will be Eugene Braig, the Program Director of the School of Environmental and Natural Resources' Extension Aquatic Ecosystems program. The presentation will be the All-Purpose Pond Management Overview. The cost to attend the presentation is \$5.00. Please RSVP via email to [beam.49@osu.edu](mailto:beam.49@osu.edu) or by phone at 937-393-1918. Plan to purchase lunch on your own.

Join the Highland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio Department of Agriculture, USDA NRCS, Ohio State University Extension, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife for a **Grazing Workshop**. The event will be held at the Millstone Creek Farm at 9061 Grabill Road, Hillsboro, Ohio. The event is free, but you should RSVP to the Highland SWCD at 937-393-1922. Dinner will be provided by the Highland County Cattleman Association and Union Stockyards. The program will be held from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M.

The Ohio State University will be hosting the **Hops Field Night** at the South Centers in Piketon on August 8, 2018, from 5:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The cost is \$15 per person and dinner will be served at 5:30 P.M. The deadline to register is Monday, August 6, 2018. The field night will be geared toward all growers, new and experienced. Some topics that will be discussed included galvanized trellis systems, mechanical harvesting demonstration, drying demonstrations, insect and diseases, and pest management. To register, contact Charissa Gardner at [gardner.1148@osu.edu](mailto:gardner.1148@osu.edu) or at 740-289-2071 ext. 132.

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