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WANTED TO PURCHASE OR RENT farmland in the Drayton, St. Thomas, Oakwood area. Call Andy Grzadzieski at 701-360-3351.

## 'LIVESTOCK' CON'T FROM PAGE 4

### Surface cooling strategies

Proactive management of pen surface temperature can be an effective way to reduce the risk of heat stress. These strategies include dampening the pen with water or adding light-colored bedding (straw or corn stalks) to lower the ground temperature.

"Sprinkler systems are a popular way to cool ground temperatures in confinement cattle operations," said Gibbs.

This strategy should be implemented well before a heat event and before peak heat on high-temperature days. Large water droplet size is important to avoid increasing humidity.

### Animal handling

"Any type of livestock handling, processing or transportation should be avoided during heat events as much as possible," said Dr. Galbreath.

If working with livestock is absolutely necessary, livestock handling should be limited to the early morning hours (before 10 a.m.). Calm animal-handling techniques will be important to minimize stress related to handling, and livestock owners should consider working with smaller groups of livestock at a time to avoid bunching animals together for extended periods of time, as this increases body heat.

Working facilities, including holding pens, should have ample access to water, and personnel should be dedicated to monitoring livestock stress status. Avoid working livestock in the evenings during a heat event to give livestock time to recover and cool down during cooler periods of the day.

### Adjusting feed intake timelines

Livestock owners should consider moving livestock feeding time to late

afternoon or evening. This will allow rumen fermentation to occur during cooler night temperatures and increase lung capacity during hotter daytime temperatures. Owners feeding multiple times daily should consider feeding a small meal in the morning and a larger portion of the diet later in the afternoon. Decrease the amount of feed offerings during and for several days after heat stress to allow animals ample opportunity to recover.

### Knowing when to intervene

Livestock suffering from heat stress will exhibit several signs of distress as their bodies work to return to homeostasis. Ruminant livestock, including sheep and cattle experiencing extreme heat stress, will exhibit increased respiration rate and panting score, foaming around the mouth, down head and lethargic appearance.

Livestock owners should keep in contact with their local veterinarian and contact them immediately if they have animals in severe distress. Animals should be gradually cooled by moving to nearby shaded areas with ample

air movement. Rapid cooling (such as spraying with cold water) can have serious consequences for livestock in severe distress.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a heat stress forecast tool available at <https://www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/clay-center-ne/marc/documents/heat-stress/main/>.

For more information on dealing with heat stress in cattle, see the NDSU Extension publication, "Dealing with Heat Stress in Beef Cattle Operations," at [ndsu.ag/heat-stress-26](http://ndsu.ag/heat-stress-26).

For more information on livestock water quality, see the NDSU Extension publication "Livestock Water Quality," at [ndsu.ag/ruminant-water26](http://ndsu.ag/ruminant-water26).

For more information on dealing with heat stress in small ruminants, see "Heat Stress in Small Ruminants" from South Dakota State University Extension and "Managing Heat Stress in Sheep and Goats" from Nebraska Extension.



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