

**Head office**  
1805 Sawmill Road  
Conestogo, On, N0B 1N0  
Tel: 519.664.2237  
Fax: 519.664.1636



**Mount Forest**  
Tel: 519.323.1880  
Fax: 519.323.3183

**Tavistock**  
Tel: 519.655.3777  
Fax: 519.655.3505

Toll Free 1.800.265.2203

Volume 13, Issue 3

Conestogo, Mount Forest, Tavistock

JUNE—JULY 2013

## KEEP AN EYE ON BUTTERFAT

Ontario will soon implement a proposed harmonized solids non-fat (SNF) ratio cap policy. Understanding what measures you can take in your management practices and feeding strategies to help raise herd butterfat tests to reduce SNF yields will ensure you stay within the new limit. It is estimated the monthly ratio cap will be 2.35 kilograms of SNF to one kg of butterfat. The change will take place on August 1st. The summer months, particularly from May to September, are when you're at highest risk of exceeding the ratio. Typically, butterfat and milk protein percentages decline during the summer months and are at their highest during the fall and winter. If you let your cows out on pasture in the spring and summer, this may further reduce butterfat. A drop in butterfat during the summer months increases your SNF ratio. Therefore, it is best to maintain butterfat in these high-risk months to stay below the ratio.

When you increase your herd's butterfat test or minimize fat depression during the summer through feeding, you reduce your SNF-butterfat ratio. Ultimately, your feeding practices can have a major impact on milk fat and protein levels.

Heat stress negatively affects milk production. A 2009 study by Lance Baumgard and colleagues at the University of Arizona examined short-term effects of heat stress on cows under climate controlled conditions. Their data indicated only about 35 per cent of a cow's milk production drop was due to feed intake. In the university study, the cows could not recover at night from heat stress exposure during the day. This scenario may be more realistic of what cows in Ontario and other parts of Canada experience during July and August, when nighttime heat and humidity levels are usually above a cow's heat stress threshold. Controlling heat stress in your cows requires tweaking your management practices. Use fans in key places, such as the holding area and where cows lie and feed, soak your cows' backs with water and avoid overcrowding. Heat stress, resulting from hot weather or high humidity, can affect your cows' feed intake, metabolism, energy and milk production, leading to lower butterfat tests.

Well-known veterinarian Dr. Gordie Jones suggests setting fans to automatically come on when the temperature reaches 20 degrees Celsius and water soakers when it reaches 22 degrees Celsius. There are several ways to increase milk's butterfat content. Be sure to discuss these or other strategies with your sales representative to better understand how they might impact your herd.

**WE WILL BE CLOSED  
ON MONDAY JULY  
1ST FOR CANADA  
DAY.**

**PLEASE ORDER YOUR  
FEED ACCORDINGLY.**

### FUTURES MARKET

#### BEEF

JUNE	120.75
AUGUST	119.42
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JULY	93.30
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### HOURS OF OPERATION AT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK

Monday –Friday: 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Ways to place your order:

Toll-free: 1.800.265.2203

Fax: 519.655.3505

Email: [orders@wsfeeds.ca](mailto:orders@wsfeeds.ca)

Online: [www.wsfeeds.ca](http://www.wsfeeds.ca)

## HEAT STRESS

Heat stress, as we all know, can be a serious problem with its effects being observed for months after the temperature has declined. Reduced milk production, poor reproductive performance and increased health problems are just a few effects brought on by extended periods of heat.

Hot weather cooling:

### Dairy

- feed only best quality forage
- Keep adequate air movement this controls stale air and flies
- Keep clean dry bedding
- Non slip flooring
- Lower stocking density
- Supply lots of cool, clean water—add water space if possible
- Clean bunks daily
- Add buffers to the ration
- Use sprinklers in free stalls
- Don't forget dry cows and calves

### Birds

- good air movement at the birds level
- more and larger fans (aim for 74F or 23C)
- Keep belts tight replace old ones
- Clean fan daily
- Supply lots of cool clean fresh water, hot weather takes two to three time's more water
- Use vitamins and electrolytes
- Feed in cool hours
- Use sprinklers in extremes
- Ensure the generator is clean and working
- Increase floor space and decrease numbers of birds
- Layer - gather eggs more often
- Keep as dry as possible

### Swine

- lots of air movement
- Use sprinklers
- Feed more at night in the cool, avoid handling in the hottest hours of the day.
- Lots of clean, fresh water
- Monitor salt in very hot spells

## SPECIALS FOR

### JUNE

#### **M P CATTLE MINERAL & BEEF COW MINERAL**

Buy 10 bags of one product in one order and receive \$1.00 off per bag. The minimum order is 10 bags.

#### **NEW PRODUCT SPECIAL— MASTOTREET**

An all natural essential oil , Tee Tree oil and Eucalyptus oil used to treat Mastitis and elevated SCC in dairy cows. On sale for \$4.00 per tube (regular price is \$5.00.

**These specials will run  
until June 3—June 28,  
2013.**

#### **Comfortable Cows**

A University of Guelph study reveals that pregnant cows use mechanical brushes more frequently before and immediately after calving. It was discovered that eight-month pregnant cows used mechanical brushes about 30 minutes a day, 2-3 days before calving in prepartum and maternity pens. This is a 600% increase in brush use compared with cows half way through their pregnancies, as discovered in a previous study. More research is needed to understand the underlying physiological responses triggered by brush use and whether mechanical brushes can help cows experiencing difficult calving. (Milk Producer)