STOP HEAT BECOMING A STRESS

HEIFERS

HEAT STRESS SIGNS

- Increased standing time and congregating
- 9% drop in dry matter intake
- 22% reduction in weight gain
- Reduced bulling activity and conception rate
- Blood acid-base imbalance
- Respiratory alkalosis risk

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

- Add shade with tarps/roofing
- Increase shade, ventilation and cooling
- If outside, ensure access to natural shade
- Housing should allow heifers to be grouped in small groups to minimise stress and competition at feed bunk

FEEDING AND NUTRITION

- AD LIBITUM feed, always!
- Ensure uniformity of mixed and delivered rations
- Minimise feed sorting (low SARA risks)
- NO restriction of access to feed and water
- Shift feeding times to cooler parts of the day (evening/night)
- Parasite management — parasitic infection can increase energy requirements by up to 10%
- Keep the animal healthy:
  - Improve rumen function (e.g., addition of dietary live yeast)
  - Select higher quality forages
  - Use the more digestible feed ingredients (lower heat production during digestion)
- Choose the right type of starch:
  - Corn grain and fermentable starch
- Sugar 6–7% DM
- Forages: good quality (no visibly mouldy or poorly fermented forage) and digestible (high energy value)
- Pre-pubertal dietary CP: 14–15%
- Post-pubertal dietary CP: 13–14%
- Soluble protein: overall >30–35% of the CP
- Ensure ammonia supply for rumen bacteria to satisfy their requirements
  - Maintain consistent rumen NH3 level throughout the day
- Satisfy the highest requirements for minerals:
  - Calcium, magnesium (for bone growth, milk production and muscle function)
  - Sodium (for generating energy and nutrient absorption)
  - Potassium (for acid-base balance)
  - Iodine
  - Manganese
  - Zinc

- Feed YEA-SACC® to help stabilise the rumen environment and optimise function

- Feed OPTIGEN® to increase dietary nitrogen density while maintaining consistent rumen NH3 levels and intake levels