What determines the severity of heat stress?

4 Fibre
During heat stress conditions, there is a greater risk for rumen acidosis in cows due to slug feeding and decreased intake. To reduce this risk, maintaining fibre levels in the diet is crucial. However, the digestion of forages creates more heat, meaning forages have a higher heat increment of feeding, and thus the quality and degradability should be monitored. High-quality forages that will be quickly digested in the rumen will not only contribute to the health of the rumen but will also help maintain milk production.

5 Minerals
A wide variety of minerals play an important role in helping cows combat heat stress. The cow’s requirements for sodium, potassium and phosphorous increase during heat stress, as these minerals are lost through sweating and panting.

Christina Straathof is territory dairy sales technician for Alltech.

Silvio Miranda
Canadian Dairy Technical Manager
Alltech
smiranda@alltech.com

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