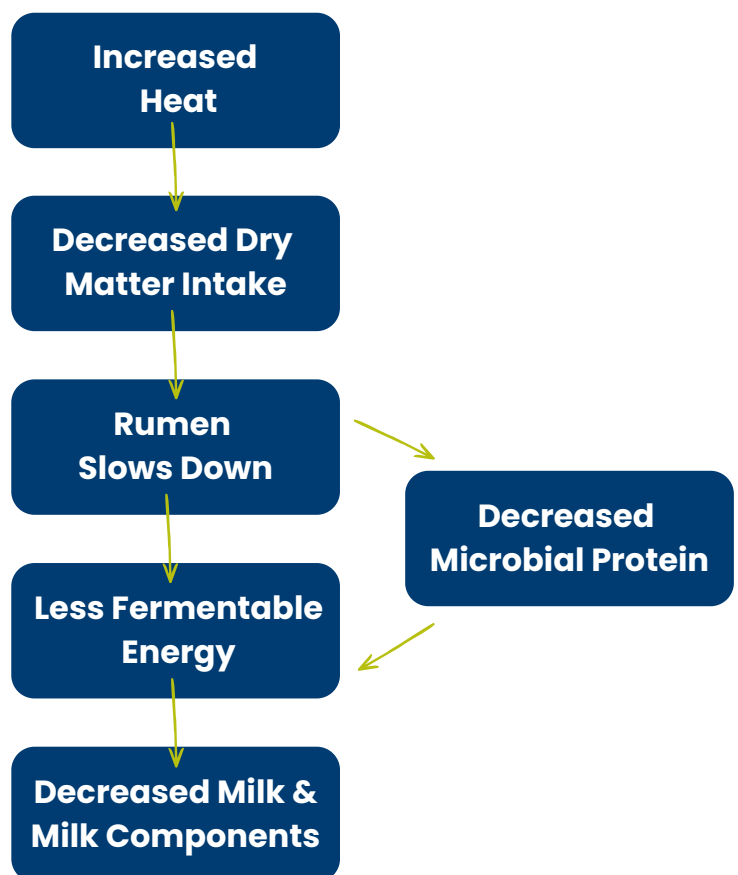


# Protecting Performance in the Heat!

The summer heat is quickly approaching! Time to ensure that your barn is prepared for heat stress. Heat Stress happens when a cow can't get rid of body heat fast enough, and her body temperature starts to rise.

## First Signs of Heat Stress

- Increased respiration rate (Brouk et al., 2002)
- Reduced feed intake by up to 30% (Wheelock et al., 2010)
- An approximate 40% decrease in laying time in replacement of time spent standing in the alley or stalls (Cook et al., 2007)
- Decrease in body weight (Rhoads et al., 2009)
- 20-30% decrease in conception rate (De Rensis & Scaramuzzi, 2003)
- Decreased birth weight of calves (approx. 5.5 kg less), immunoglobulin absorption (approx. 15%) and, on average, 4.5 kg/day less first lactation future milk (Dahl, 2016)



## Top Tips for Helping Your Herd:

### Fresh Water

- >9 cm linear water space per cow
- Water at parlour exit
- Keep water under shade and in airflow
- Clean daily!

### Fresh Feed

- Deliver 60-70% of feed late afternoon/evening
- Frequent push-ups, especially evening & early night
- Avoid 100% stocking at the bunk during heat
- Maintain optimal dry matter of the ration
- Avoid sudden particle length changes
- Deliver fresh feed consistently
- If feed starts to heat, consider adding a preservative to keep it cool and to help avoid even higher drop in DMI

### Fresh Air

- Aim fan air at cow level, not ceiling
- Target airspeed: 2-3 m/s or 400-600 ft/min (feel it strongly at cow shoulder height)
- Keep fans clean (10-20% loss in performance if dirty with dust, straw, bird nests cobwebs, etc)

**Talk to your Trouw Nutrition/Shur-Gain  
advisor today to find out how our  
nutritional solutions can support your cows  
through the summer heat!**