

Animals in Extensive Production Systems

VETS30031 / VETS90123



Challenges for the dairy industry – animal welfare

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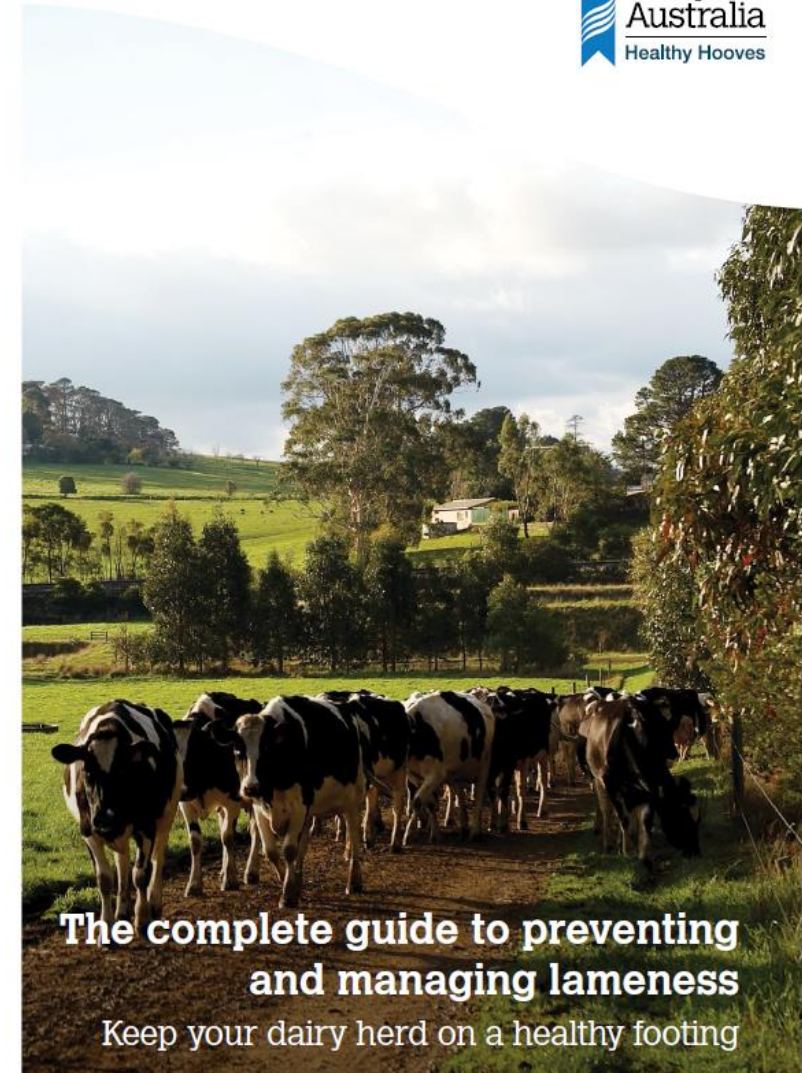
Welfare issues

- Cows
 - Lameness
 - Mastitis
 - Nutrition
 - Problems around calving
 - Heat stress
- Calves
 - Bobby calves
 - Neonatal disease
 - Disbudding
- Transport



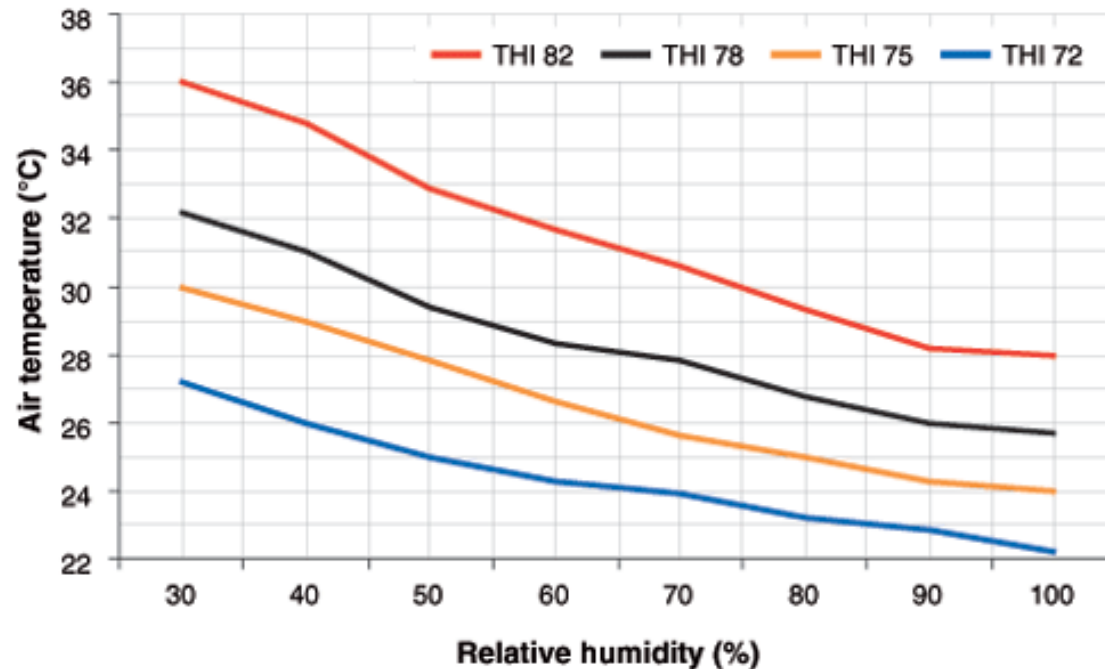
Lameness

- Number 1 welfare concern for dairy worldwide
- Incidence in Australia probably lower than in N. hemisphere, but actual rates unknown
- Most common risk factors for lameness in Aus/NZ are management-related = PREVENTABLE



Heat stress

Temperature Humidity Index (THI)



$$\text{THI} = (\text{dry bulb temperature } ^\circ\text{C}) + (0.36 \times \text{dew point temperature } ^\circ\text{C}) + 41.2$$



Heat stress

Moderate (THI 75)

- Provide shade
- ↑ energy density of diet
- Sprinklers at PM milking
- Ensure access to cool drinking water



High (THI 78)

- Minimise walking distance to dairy
- Utilise coolest paddocks
- High quality pastures at night
- Sprinklers AM/PM milking
- Delay milking time



Severe (THI 82+)

- Use fans to increase air movement
- Alter diet if appropriate
- Provide access to dams







Heat stress

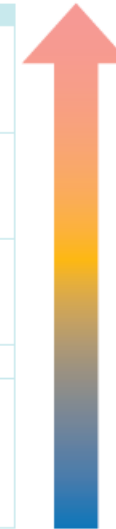


OUR FARM'S COOL COW ACTION PLAN

Managing heat stress helps us maintain our summer milk production and maximise cow comfort.

We use Cool Cows' daily Temp. Humidity Index (THI) forecasts* to determine actions to help keep cows cool. We record our cows' breathing rate daily** to check these actions are helping cows manage their heat load.

Heat stress risk level	Actions	Who is responsible?	Notes
Severe (THI 82+)			
High (THI 78)			
Moderate (THI 75)			
Low-mild (THI <75)	 <p>At 80+, cow heat load is severe At 70, cows are starting to struggle 40-60 breaths / minute is normal</p>	<p>* For daily max. THI forecasts for your local area, visit coolcows.com.au and click on 'Weather Forecaster'.</p> <p>** For a guide to counting your cows' average breathing rate, visit coolcows.com.au and click on 'Managing in the heat'.</p>	



Month: _____

Day of month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Max THI																															
Breaths/minute																															
Acceptable ✓ / X																															

Transport

[Home](#) / [Livestock and animals](#) / [Animal Welfare Victoria](#) / [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(POCTA\) Act](#)



Animal Welfare Victoria

- > [New animal welfare Act for Victoria](#)
- > [Animal welfare](#)
- > [Pets and emergencies](#)
- > [Animals used in research and teaching](#)
- > [Domestic Animals Act](#)
- > [Choosing a pet](#)
- > [Cats](#)
- > [Dogs](#)
- > [Other pets](#)
- > [Domestic animal businesses](#)
- > **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Act**
 - > [About the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Legislation](#)
 - > [Victorian codes of practice for animal welfare](#)
 - > [Land transport of livestock standards and guidelines](#)
 - > [Bobby calf transport standards and guidelines](#)
 - > [Land Transport Standards for livestock agents](#)
 - > [Land Transport Standards for saleyards](#)

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Act 1986

About the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Legislation

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals legislation consists of the principal Act, principal Regulations, Domestic Fowl Regulations and Codes of Practice.



Victorian codes of practice for animal welfare

Codes of practice set out recommended minimum standards and practices for the keeping of a wide range of species and animal related activities.



Land transport of livestock standards and guidelines

All livestock operators involved in the livestock transport process are required to comply with the Livestock Transport Standards.



Bobby calf transport standards and guidelines

The Land Transport Standards include requirements and guidelines specific to bobby calves.



Land Transport Standards for livestock agents

Requirements livestock agents must comply with to ensure the welfare of livestock under their control.



Land Transport Standards for saleyards

Saleyard operators, livestock agents and transporters involved in the livestock transport process must comply with the Land Transport Standards.



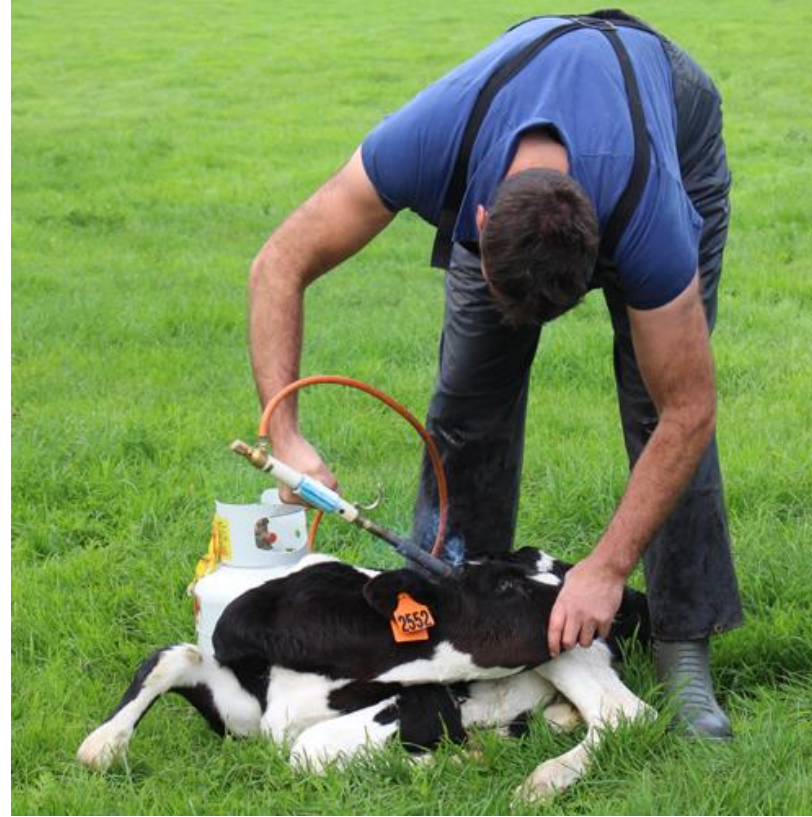
Photo by Elgindale on flickr



Disbudding

Veterinary disbudding

- Heavy sedation/pain relief
- Local anaesthetic
- Antiseptic spray
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (q3d)
- ~\$8.00 per calf



Veterinary disbudding with sedation and local anaesthetic, results in an average of 1.4kg greater growth over the 2 week period following disbudding (this is a 17% increase in growth rate over the period). Gemma Chuck (FVAS Dairy resident)





THE UNIVERSITY OF
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AEPS – DAIRY WEEK 2

