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Seasonal Heat Stress: Clinical Implications and Hormone Treatments for the Fertility of Dairy Cows

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1 SEASONAL HEAT STRESS: CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS AND HORMONE TREATMENTS
2 FOR THE FERTILITY OF DAIRY COWS

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4 Running head: Treatments for the heat-stressed cow

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15

16 Abstract

17

18 Heat stress has consequences on both the physiology and reproductive performance of cows, but the
19 most dramatic effect for dairy producers is the decrease produced in fertility. The effects of heat
20 stress on fertility include an increased number of days open, reduced conception rate and larger
21 number of cows suffering different types of anestrus. Once becomes pregnant, heat stress affects
22 also the reproductive success of the cow through its direct effects on the ovary, uterus, gametes,
23 embryo and early fetus. This paper reviews current knowledge of the effects of heat stress on
24 fertility in dairy cows and the hormonal strategies used to mitigate these effects at the farm level.
25 Administration of GnRH at the moment of AI can improve the conception rate. Breeding
26 synchronization protocols for fixed-time insemination may reduce the calving conception interval

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