



SUPPORT BROILERS DURING PERIODS OF HEAT STRESS

The warm summer of last year will still be fresh in many people's minds. The question is whether the summer of 2021 and subsequent years will be comparable, but the predictions are that extreme heat will occur more often, causing heat stress in poultry. To prevent problems with heat stress as much as possible, this article discusses several possible solutions.

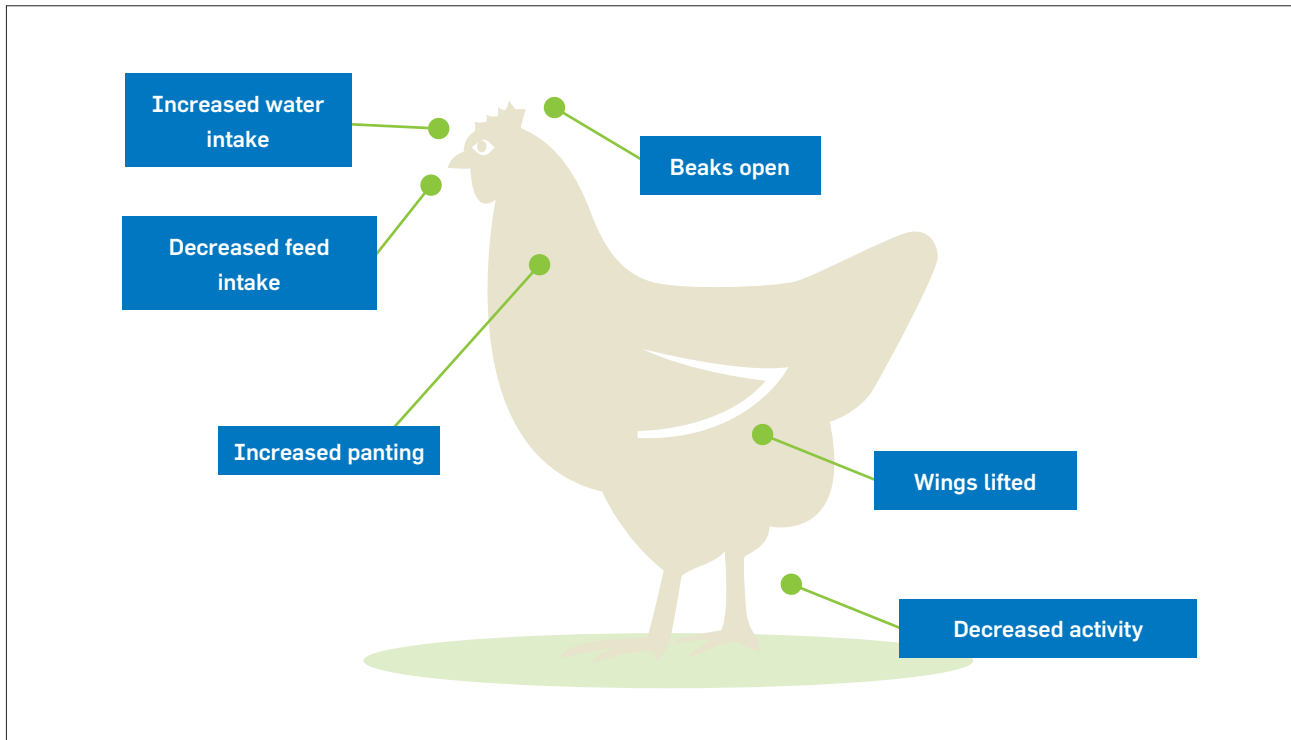
Heat stress is not only characterized by decreased welfare, but also by lower feed intake, lower growth, and poorer fertility. These effects do not only occur during the period of heat stress, but they can also continue for a long time afterwards. As a result, the financial results of your farm can decline sharply.

WHAT IS HEAT STRESS

Poultry function optimally in what is called the thermoneutral or comfort zone. This is the range of ambient temperatures, at bird level, within which a bird can

maintain their normal body temperature. This varies between 40.0 and 42.0°C and it is maintained by controlling heat loss from the body. The thermoneutral zone depends upon the birds age and the degree of feathering. To keep the body temperature within the limits, a continuous heat exchange takes place between the animal and the environment. If heat production exceeds the ability of the body to lose heat body temperature rises. If the body temperature goes above 42.5°C, heat stress occurs.

RECOGNIZING HEAT STRESS IN POULTRY



RECOGNIZING HEAT STRESS

The picture above shows the typical signs of heat stress in poultry. Heat stress is not only caused by an increase in temperature and an increase in humidity, but it can also be affected by airspeed. This means that it is important that you as a poultry farmer are constantly alert to the possible development of heat stress in your animals. This CoolCare app helps you to do just that!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

In addition to the CoolCare app and the suggested tips and tricks, it is always advisable to contact an expert to find the best solution for your farm. We can provide you with comprehensive, advice tailored to suit your farm in terms of both management and nutrition.

Use the contact form in the app or mail directly to infos@deheus.com

Finally: our website www.deheus.com also contains more info about heat stress.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY BIRDS DURING HEAT STRESS: TIPS & TRICKS?

1. Ensure that adequate ventilation is installed. A minimum of 3.6 m³ / h / kg is recommended.
2. Make sure the fans and inlet valves, as well as other elements of the ventilation system, are clean and functioning properly.
3. Do not leave doors open as this removes the negative pressure in the building and no fresh air will reach the animals.
4. In the summer poultry houses heat up most through the radiation of heat. Heating of houses can be prevented as much as possible using proper insulation.
5. By increasing the target value by, for example, 2.0 °C during an expected heat wave, the animals will partly get used to the heat.
6. With the help of cooling, it is possible to lower the (sensible) temperature in the house. Make sure the cooling is working.
7. Do not wait to turn on the cooling only once there are extremely high temperatures
8. Stay at home when heat is forecasted, to monitor your birds and act when needed.
9. Provide cool drinking water. If the temperature rises too much, flush the drinking water system.

