



SUPPORT SWINE 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 pigs. To prevent problems with heat stress as much as possible, this article discusses several possible solutions.

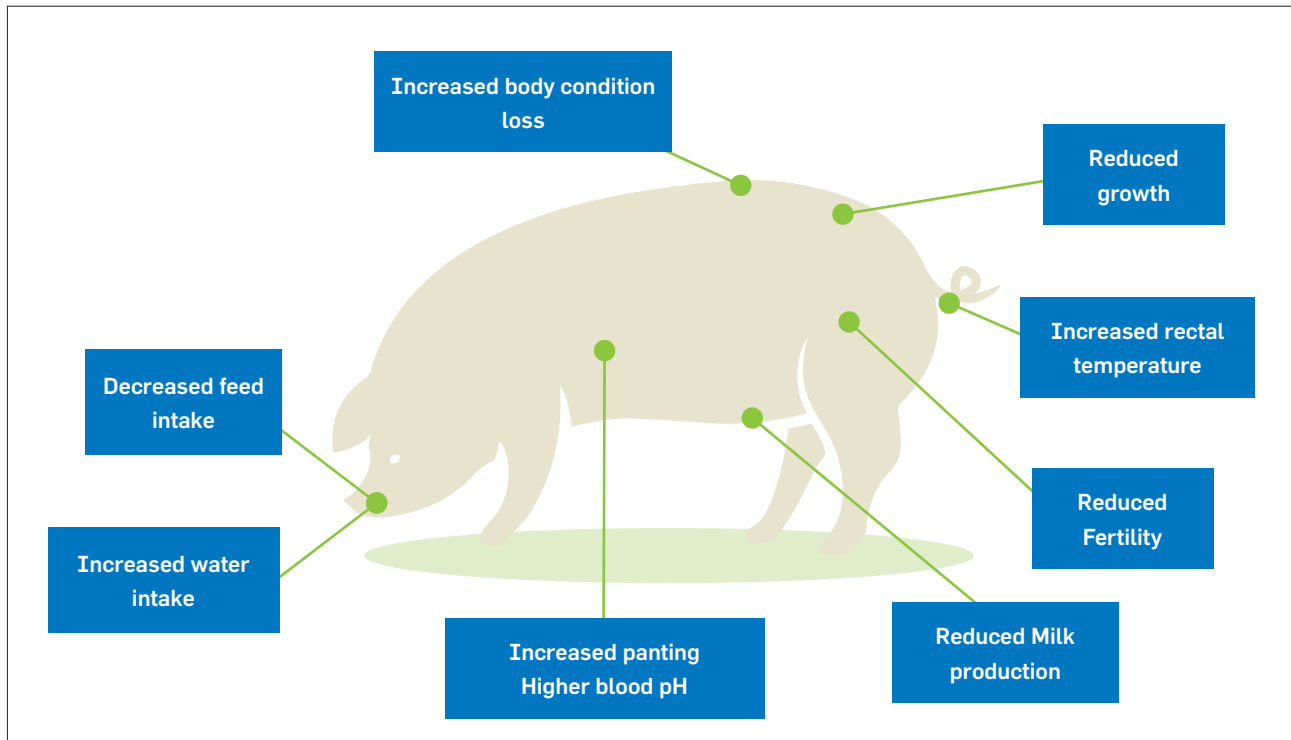
Heat stress is not only characterized by decreased welfare, but also by lower feed intake, lower growth, and worse fertility. These effects do not only occur during the period of heat stress, but they can also continue for a long time afterwards. As a result, the financial results of your farm can decline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

WHAT IS HEAT STRESS

Swine function optimally in what is called the thermoneutral or comfort zone. In this zone the animal can easily get rid of the

heat to maintain the body temperature, which varies between 38.5 and 39.5°C. The comfort zone mainly depends on age and stage in the production cycle. To keep the body temperature within the limits, a continuous heat exchange takes place between the animal and the environment. If heat production exceeds heat expulsion, the body temperature rises. At a body temperature of 39.5° C and above, heat stress occurs. Heat stress is not solely dependent on environmental temperature, but also on relative humidity of the environment, and airspeed

RECOGNIZING HEAT STRESS IN SWINE



RECOGNIZING AND MONITORING HEAT STRESS

The picture above shows the typical signs of heat stress in swine. 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 swine 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.co.za also contains more info

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

- 1: Try to let the animals rest during the hottest time of the day (12h00 – 16h00) by limiting your activities with them.
- 2: Make sure the fans and inlet valves, as well as other elements of the ventilation system, are clean and functioning properly.
- 3: Check that there is enough shade (if applicable) and air movement.
- 4: In the summer swine houses heat up most through the radiation of heat. Heating of houses can be prevented as much as possible by using proper insulation.
- 5: Try to put in systems that cool the incoming air: this will reduce the temperature in the building.
- 6: Supply clean, cool and fresh water which is between 10-15°C.
- 7: Water must always be available ad libitum.
- 8: Feed smaller portions multiple times a day.
- 9: Feed during the cooler parts of the day such as early morning and in the late evening., late evening).
- 10: Closely monitor your animals and act before it is too late..



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