



Cool Cows Newsletter Grab

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Head: Cow cooling centre (270 words)

In the hot months, when dairy cows are at risk of heat stress, the dairy yard can double as a farm cooling centre.

Dairy Australia's Cool Cows program leader, Dr Steve Little, said water sprinklers could be installed quickly and at low cost.

"Every Australian dairy should be fitted with yard sprinklers and a big water trough at the dairy exit. As well as keeping your cows cool, the sprinklers will keep the flies away," Dr Little said.

"Installing a shade cloth or solid roof over the dairy yard in combination with sprinklers can dramatically reduce the impact of heat stress on milk production and herd fertility.

"Many dairy farmers start with a simple system, and once they've seen the benefits, invest in a more permanent solution, such as a solid roof with sprinklers and fans."

Shade reduces the amount of heat cows absorb in the first place, while sprinklers and fans help the cows offload heat through evaporative cooling.

Dr Little suggests that on very hot days it may hardly be worth sending the cows to the paddock if you have a farm cooling centre.

"Instead, consider feeding a high quality forage or partial mixed ration on a loafing paddock or feed pad close to the farm cooling centre.

"Allow cows to move to and from the farm cooling centre during the heat of the day," he said.

Offer cows the best quality pasture in the evenings when it is cooler, even if it means altering the paddock rotation.

A farm cooling centre is just one of several cooling infrastructure options for dairy farms. To find out more, visit www.coolcows.com.au.

For more information contact Steve Little 0400 004 841 email slittle@dairyaustralia.com.au

Cool Cows is one of many examples of the dairy services levy at work. For more information on this project and other levy investments visit the Dairy Australia website www.dairyaustralia.com
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Caption: A dairy farm cooling centre can be as simple as shade cloth and a garden sprinkler system or a more permanent structure with roof, fans and sprinklers.



Media contact: This media release has been issued by Monks Communication on behalf of Grains2Milk. Contact Monks Communication for inquiries about photos and interviews or to have your contact details removed or updated on our distribution list:
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About Grains2Milk (background information for media)

The Grains2milk program provides dairy farmers with the training, resources and support they need to make better decisions about using grains and concentrates in their businesses. The program is funded by dairy farmers through Dairy Australia.