

FIGURE 4

HOW DO COWS RESPOND TO HEAT STRESS?

- Seek shade and cool areas
- Reduce activity
- Increase water intake (if available)
- Reduce feed intake (> 22.5 °C)
- Increase body temperature (39 °C)
- Increase respiration rates (> 70/ml)
- Hormonal changes
- Decrease immune function
- Decrease in rumen fermentation efficiency

MILK PRODUCTION?

- Can drop 10% - 25% or more due to:
- More energy used on maintenance
 - Less energy for productive functions
 - Lower dry matter intake
 - Alterations in nutrient use



WHAT ABOUT REPRODUCTION?

- Decreased:
 - Oestrus intensity and length
 - Fertility rate
 - Ovarian follicle growth
- Increased early embryonic death

