

Healthy cattle form the basis for healthy farm profits

As a dairy farmer, you want the best for your animals. In addition to giving them the care and attention they need, you provide optimal rations and unlimited access to fresh water while also looking for the best genetic makeup for your livestock.

In short: everything you do is geared towards keeping your cattle healthy. Because healthy cattle form the basis for healthy farm profits.

Laws and regulations around animal welfare, phosphate, and ammonia emissions have been putting your business to the test for many years. And recently, a new challenge has been added to the list: climate change. With an increase in temperatures and the number of hot days, heat stress has become a very real threat to your livestock. *zeer reël gevaar voor uw vee.*

The dangers of heat stress

Cows are most comfortable at ambient temperatures between -5° and 18°C. Climate change is responsible for increasingly lengthy periods of extremely hot weather. High-yielding animals, such as dairy cows, suffer more frequently from heat stress. This leads to disruptions in their bodily functions, resulting in a decrease in animal welfare and a deterioration in animal health. Heat stress can be recognised by:

- Reduced feed intake
- Reduced milk production and content
- Increased bulk tank milk somatic cell count
- Lameness
- Fertility problems
- Increased risk of infection and disease

The right ventilation solution

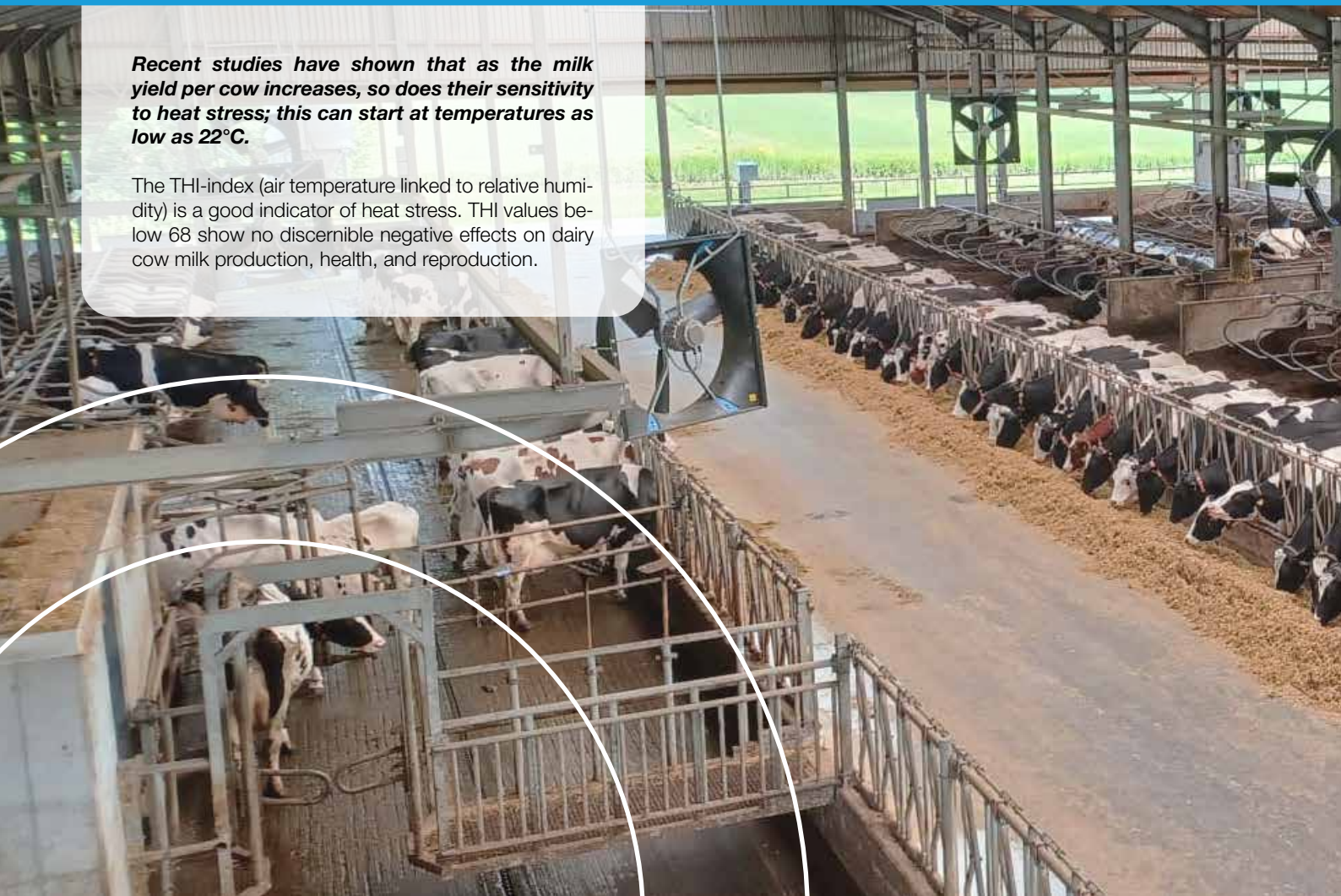
Heat stress can be mitigated with a state-of-the-art ventilation system in your dairy barn. Numerous factors determine the right ventilation solution for your situation, including:

- Type of barn
- Air flow in and out of the barn
- Animal group
- Position/aspect
- Possible systems already in use
- Specific climatological circumstances

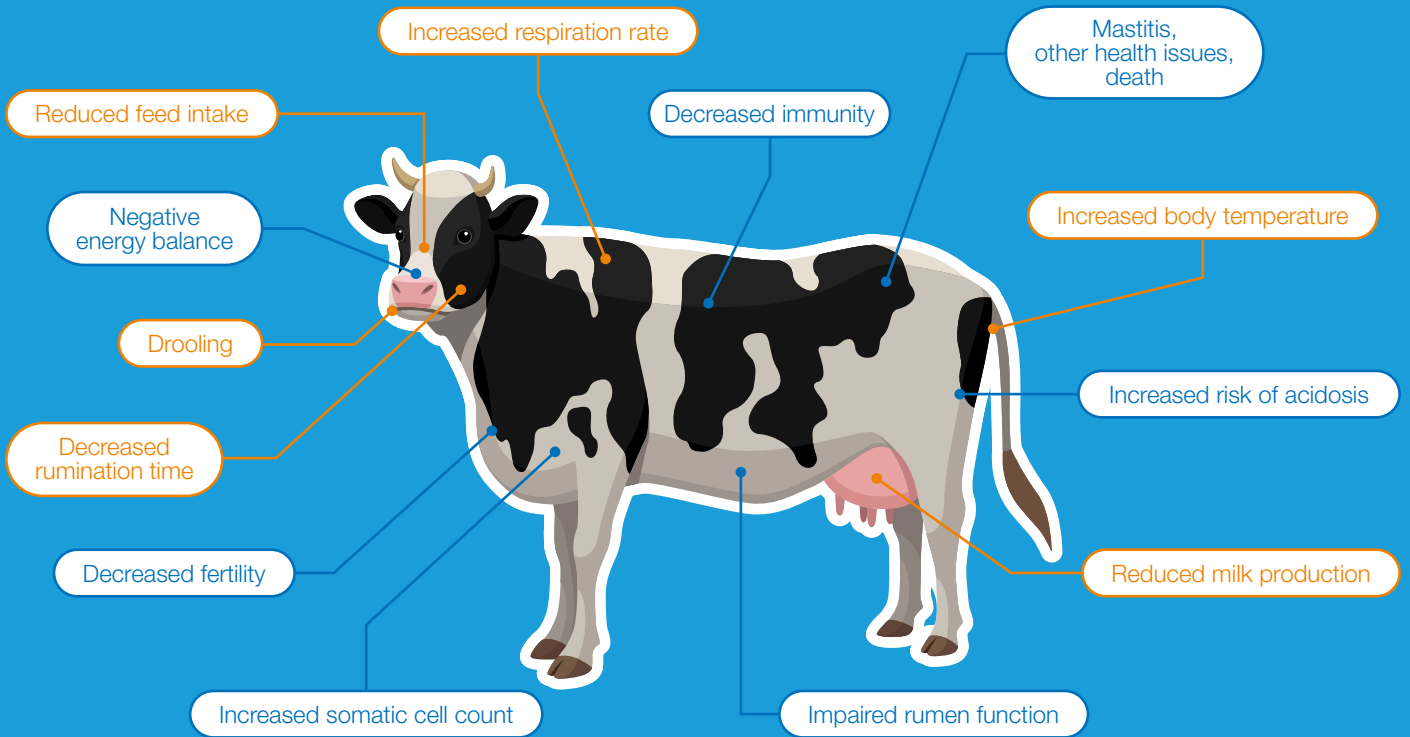
Together with our specialised dealers, we are here to help you determine the right solution for combatting heat stress to keep your dairy cows and profits healthy. And that involves much more than just placing a fan somewhere. We will be happy to provide you with information about the possibilities on page 4.

Recent studies have shown that as the milk yield per cow increases, so does their sensitivity to heat stress; this can start at temperatures as low as 22°C.

The THI-index (air temperature linked to relative humidity) is a good indicator of heat stress. THI values below 68 show no discernible negative effects on dairy cow milk production, health, and reproduction.



Problems caused by heat stress (THI ≥ 68)



● Visible signs of heat stress

● Invisible signs of heat stress

