



From the desk of Dr. Gary Collings

July 1st, 2017

Welcome July and the sunshine! After that June, I think our rain gauges need a break. A few helpful hints to keep the heat off your herd.

- ✓ Cows are heat stressed over 70°Fahrenheit. That being said, many of you have your fans on thermostats. I challenge you to leave your fans on. They should run until October 15th. Multiple studies have shown cows cool the best between 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. However, in Michigan we tend to turn the fans off at night. DO NOT!
- ✓ Fans should move air at 5 mph. That takes approximately 1 fan for 10-12 cows on the farm, including holding pens.

Too expensive you say? Lower milk production, increased slug feeding and acidosis, decreased conception rates, increased incidence of lame cows, somatic cell increases, the list goes on. Hot cows are expensive.

- ✓ Tips to help keep your fans running—CLEAN THEM. A few of our producers have had their fans power washed and they say, “The fans once clean move way more air and use less energy to do so.” Their words, not mine. A good example is your house ceiling fan, you can hear the motor if the blades are dirty, much less if clean. Do not have time to clean your fans? CGN Power Washing is one local company that can do it for you: (810)-837-2533.
- ✓ Stop overcrowding your fresh cows. Every fresh cow is immune compromised and has some level of musculoskeletal weakness. Do not make her push her way to the feed bunk or stand an extra long time for a stall. Get her next lactation off to a great start.
- ✓ For you 4-H kids out there, all the previously mentioned things are important. Maybe you do not have sprinklers however, air movement is the key

factor. If you see **cobwebs** in your barn, your animals need more ventilation. Add a few fans to those barns and push that air through. This will help keep your animal's lungs in good shape for the Fair.

- ✓ Cut the burdocks or other weeds that stop or decrease airflow alongside the barns.

How many flies does it take to bother a family at a picnic, 3 to 5? That's how many flies it takes to bother cows, then they crowd.

We are excited to announce a new member to our team, Dr. Kaitlyn Briggs will be starting this month.



Dr. Briggs is from Sherburne, NY a rural town in central NY southeast of Syracuse. She graduated from Cornell University with her DVM in May 2017 and completed her undergraduate studies at Cornell as well in 2013. Although she didn't grow up on a farm, she always

enjoyed spending time on her uncle's dairy. Her passions in dairy include education, calf/heifer rearing and health, and data analysis. She has traveled abroad several times including veterinary trips in Belgium, Colombia and South Africa and just finished hiking trips in two national parks, Denali and Rocky Mountain, before moving to Sandusky. She's very excited to meet everyone and create a life in the Thumb!

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