

The Poultry Post

J U N E 2 0 0 8

HOW TEMPERATURE EFFECTS BROILERS

55-75° F	This is the neutral zone. In this range the bird does not need to alter its basic metabolic rate or behavior to maintain its body temperature.
65-75° F	This is the ideal temperature range for a broiler.
75-85° F	Can see a slight reduction in feed consumption. Panting begins.
85-90° F	Feed consumption continues to decrease leading to a decline in weight gains. Methods to cool the birds should be started before this point.
90-95° F	Water consumption increases. Mortality due to heat loss is probable for heavier birds. Cooling methods are crucial.
95-100° F	Mortality due to heat loss becomes drastic. Emergency measures may be needed.
Over 100° F	Emergency mode needed to avoid a catastrophic loss.



Panting removes heat by the evaporation of water from the moist lining of the respiratory tract. Panting in return generates body heat and depletes water from the bird.



TIPS TO REDUCE HEAT STRESS:

- Increase water consumption by making sure there is plenty of cool (lower than birds body temperature) drinking water. May need to flush lines regularly.
- Electrolytes or other supplements will help with increased water consumption.
- Keep grass cut around cool cells and fans as they will block airflow.
- Keep fan belts tight and shutters clean to get maximum ventilation benefits.
- Air inlets should be cleaned frequently to insure adequate air flow.
- Roofs should be shiny and clean to reflect heat. Repair and paint as needed.
- Cool pads should be cleaned once a week to prevent buildup of dust and algae.
- Always have a backup well or second source of water.
- Check generator daily in hot weather!



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