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**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE** UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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# Environmental Physiology and Shelter Engineering

With Special Reference to Domestic Animals

# XXXVIII. INFLUENCE OF DIURNAL TEMPERATURE CYCLES ON HEAT PRODUCTION AND CARDIORESPIRATORY ACTIVITIES IN HOLSTEIN AND JERSEY COWS

H. H. KIBLER AND SAMUEL BRODY



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## **INTRODUCTION**

The physiological adjustments of cattle to changes in weather reflect seasonal, diurnal, and variable changes in temperature, humidity, wind, and sunshine. Because of the interactions of these weather components it is impossible under field conditions to interpret the effects of change in any one component.

In early experiments\* at the Psychroenergetic Laboratory, the attempt was made to isolate the effects of temperature from the other weather factors. Relative humidity, wind, and radiation were maintained at uniform levels, while temperature was varied from  $0^{\circ}$  to  $105^{\circ}$  F in steps of  $5^{\circ}$  to  $10^{\circ}$  F at 1 or 2-week intervals. Day and night temperatures were always the same. Under these artificially simplified conditions it was possible to avoid acclimatization effects due to sudden changes in temperature such as occur in nature. The resulting data were valuable for relating physiological response to different constant temperature levels.

In the present experiment attention was shifted to the effects of diurnal changes in temperature. Temperature was varied continuously in repetitive 24-hour cycles about a given mean daily value. During periods of 3 to 5 weeks the mean daily temperatures were controlled at about 25°, 55°, and 85° F with a diurnal range of 30° F at each condition. Maximal temperatures occurred between 3 and 4 p.m. and minimal temperatures occurred between 3 and 7 a.m. Such temperature diurnals occur in the midwest during the different seasons of the year. In other periods, the mean temperatures were maintained at 80° and 85° F and the diurnal ranges were increased to 50° and 60° F to simulate extreme day-to-night differences such as occur in some localities in the southwest of the United States.

The reactions of the experimental animals to the different diurnal temperature conditions are reported in this and other bulletins of this series.

\*For bibliography of early bulletins in this series see p. 21 of Ref. 1.

This bulletin is concerned with indices of heat stress, with heat production. and with one component of heat loss. Data are presented on rectal temperature, respiration rate, pulmonary ventilation rate, pulse rate, heat production (by oxygen consumption), and heat loss by respiratory vaporization. The preceding experiments on the effects of constant temperature have demonstrated that these activities are related in varying degree to the heat and cold tolerance and productive level of cattle. It is hoped that these data will give further insight into the effects of diurnal temperature rhythms on the thermal response of Jersey and Holstein cattle.

### **METHODS**

Animals: Two groups of lactating cows were used. Each group consisted of three Jerseys and three Holsteins ranging in age from 3 1/2 to 8 1/2 years. The A-group used in the Winter of 1953-54 was made up of high producing cows in early lactation which were subjected only to relatively infrequent external measurements. During the Spring of 1954, a second or B-group was formed by retaining two Jerseys and two Holsteins from the A-group and bringing in one of each breed from the Station herd. These animals in advanced stages of lactation were measured frequently and were subjected to radioiodine and dye injections and blood sampling. More complete data on the animals of both groups are given in a preceding bulletin.<sup>2</sup>

Environment: The diurnal temperature ranges employed in this experiment were outlined briefly in the introductory section and are summarized in Table 1. Further comments may be made, however, in regard to other environmental factors.

Air velocity over the animals was relatively constant at about 1/2 mile per hour. Grain and hay were fed twice a day. Electric lamps were turned on 12 hours a day. Relative humidity tended to decrease with increasing temperature and increase with decreasing temperature. As shown in Figures 1 and 3, the variations in range were rather small, 40 to 60 percent in six periods and 50 to 70 percent in two periods. Changes in vapor pressure, however, tended to vary in phase with temperature and were quite pronounced during the 50° to 110° F and 60° to 110° F diurnal temperature ranges. The effects of high temperatures were reinforced by the effects of high vapor pressure. Figure 2 shows that a similar relationship between vapor pressure and air temperature existed during preceding constant temperature experiments, making the diurnal and constant temperature data comparable for corresponding temperature ranges.

Apparatus and Procedures: Heat production rate was measured with an open-circuit respiratory exchange apparatus, employing laboratory chemical and electronic gas analyzers. The open-circuit apparatus was used also to measure respiratory vaporization by psychrometric and gravimetric meth-



Fig. 1-Effects of diurnal changes in temperature and other environmental factors on heat production, pulmonary ventilation rate, and heat loss by respiratory vaporization in the cows of Group A, all related to time. The heights of the bars in the upper sections show the responses in these measures to the four diurnal changes shown in the bottom section. Each pair of black and white bars is centered over the time of measurement.

ods. In the psychrometric method, the exhaled air (warmed to about 100° F to prevent condensation) was blown over wet- and dry-bulb thermometers to determine its dewpoint temperature and moisture content. Simultaneous passage of metered, exhaled air through anhydrous calcium sulfate drying units gave a comparable gravimetric determination. Total vaporization was measured by a new method, reported in another bulletin.<sup>3</sup>



Fig. 2-Comparisons of vapor pressures during the present diurnal temperature experiments with vapor pressures duing preceding constant temperature experiments. As the relative humidity was nearly constant in all experiments, the vapor pressure tended to vary with temperature in all experiments. The physiological effects of high temperatures were, therefore, accentuated by accompanying high vapor pressures.

Respiration rate was determined by counting flank movements, pulse rate by the use of a stethoscope, rectal temperature by veterinary thermometer.

The methods used in controlling environmental factors during this experiment are described in another bulletin<sup>4</sup> of this series.

## DATA AND DISCUSSION

While these experiments were primarily concerned with the effects of diurnal changes in temperature, other diurnal environmental factors were present as previously explained. The bottom sections of Figures 1 and 3 summarize the major environmental changes that occurred.

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The physiological data are summarized in Figures 1 and 3 to 11 and in Tables 2 to 5. They are closely interrelated but it is more convenient to discuss them in separate sections.

Heat Production, Pulmonary Ventilation Rate and Respiratory Vaporization: In the 10° to 40° F, 50° to 110° F, and 60° to 110° F periods, measurements were made before and after the afternoon feeding. At these two times, the air temperatures were nearly alike and were below the maximum temperature for the day.

Within the 10° to 40° F period, increases in the heat production, pulmonary ventilation rate, and respiratory vaporization after feeding presumably reflected feeding effects; the maximum air temperature, which occurred between measurements, was too low to cause heat stress.

During the 50° to 110° F and 60° to 110° F temperature cycles, the maximal air temperature occurred at the time of the afternoon feeding, increasing body temperature and depressing appetite. The differences that occurred in physiological response were probably more closely identified with increased body temperature than with feeding effects. Only irregular differences appeared in the heat production and pulmonary ventilation rate before and after feeding but respiratory vaporization was higher after feeding as shown in Figures 1 and 3.

Comparisons of measurements made after the morning feeding with those made before the afternoon feeding show that heat production usually was high after the morning feeding and decreased with rising ambient temperature and length of time after feeding. Pulmonary ventilation rate and respiratory vaporization rate increased during this period of decreasing heat production.

The cows reacted not only to the changes in temperature during each day but also to the different levels of mean daily temperature. Heat production was generally highest and pulmonary ventilation lowest during the 10° to 40° F periods. Pulmonary ventilation rate and respiratory vaporization rate were highest during the 50° to 110° F and 60° to 110° F periods.

The upper sections of Fig. 3 display two types of data. The heavy lines show the changes for the environmental conditions given in the bottom section. The light lines show the changes observed during previous constant temperature experiments in which temperature was varied from 0° to 105° F and measurements were made only between 1 and 3 p.m. The most striking contrast in the effects of the diurnally changing and gradually changing temperatures appears in the heat production data. When the temperature was increased from 60° to 110° F by increments of 5° to 10° F at 1 or 2-week intervals, heat production was depressed by 40 to 45 percent. When the temperature was changed rapidly (diurnally) from 60° to 110° F in 24 hours, the change in heat production was only about 5 percent.

The differences in response may be due to acclimatization. In preceding experiments, when the temperature was constant for long periods and the increases were in small steps, the animals became acclimatized to the new conditions. As the temperature increased above 80° F, feed consumption and milk production decreased, lowering the heat production. Studies by the radioiodine method<sup>5</sup> indicate a similar depression in thyroid activity with slowly increasing temperature at about 80° F. In the present experiment, however, when the temperature dropped to 60° F at night and rose to 110° F in the afternoon, the changes in temperature were too rapid for acclimatization except at some constant intermediate level corresponding to a temperature near 85° or 90° F.

During the 40° to 70° F temperature cycles, which were mostly in the thermoneutrality zone for lactating cattle, the heat production rate did not change appreciably whether the changes in temperature were gradual or diurnal in nature. Milk production and feed consumption were likewise relatively constant.<sup>2</sup>.

Rectal Temperature: Figures 4 and 5 show the differences in the amplitude of the diurnal rectal temperature cycles at environmental temperatures above and below 70° F.



Fig. 4—Rectal temperatures in the individual cows of group A at different times during diurnal cycles in ambient temperature. When daytime temperatures did not exceed 70° F only minor changes occurred in rectal temperature. During the 70° to 100° F diurnal cycles, however, pronounced cycles in rectal temperature did occur, and breed differences in the amplitude of these cycles were quite evident.



Fig. 5—Rectal temperatures in the individual cows of Group B at different times during diurnal cycles in ambient temperature. The more numerous measurements made on the Group B cows at low temperatures confirmed the results obtained on the high milking Group A cows. Below 70° F only minor changes occurred in rectal temperature. Above 70° F, increases in rectal temperature were general. Greater heat strain was experienced by the cows of this group during the  $60^{\circ}$  to 110° F diurnal condition than by the cows of the A-Group during the 50° to 110° F. condition. The distress of the B-group cows at 110° F is evident in Fig. 6. Low night-time temperatures are essential for the dissipation of body heat stored during hot days.

During the 10° to 40° F temperature periods, rectal temperatures were relatively constant, averaging about 101° F in the B-group and slightly lower in the A-group. There was a very slight rise between 3 and 6 p.m. and a slight fall between 8 a.m. and noon. A more definite cycle in rectal temperature occurred during the 40° to 70° F diurnal temperature periods. Values were highest between 2 and 5 p.m. and lowest during the morning. In neither diurnal period was the amplitude of the rectal temperature cycle greater than 2° F.



Fig. 6—Group B cows showing distress at  $110^{\circ}$  F during a  $60^{\circ}$  to  $110^{\circ}$  F temperature cycle.

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The amplitudes of the rectal temperature cycles were much increased when the air temperature cycled from 70 $\degree$  F or lower to 100 $\degree$  or 110 $\degree$  F. Maximal increases abovc normal rectal temperature ranged from 2° to 4° F in the Jerseys and 3.5° to 7° F in the Holsteins. Decreases of 1° to 1.5° F below normal levels occurred in three Jerseys and one Holstein during the colder part of the 50° to 110" F period. During the 70" to 100" F temperature period, rectal temperatures fell no lower than  $101.7^\circ$  F to  $103.3^\circ$  F in the A-group Holsteins. Since this experimental period followed the 10" to 40° F temperature period, the change in average environmental temperature from 25° to 85° F may have been too great for rapid acclimatization. However, rectal temperatures below 101° F were observed in some of the Jerseys.

Respiration Rate: Figures 7 and 8 show that the sensitivity of respiration rate within diurnal temperature cycles varied with changes in ambient temperature level, with the diurnal range, and with breed or size. Although respiration rate was insensitive to temperature reductions between 10° to  $40^{\circ}$  F, it became moderately sensitive between  $40^{\circ}$  and 70° F, and extremely sensitive between 70° and 100° F, 60° and 110° F, and 50° and 110° F. For the '0° to 110" F diurnal temperature period, the respiration rate cycled from 35 to 155 in the Jerseys and from 50 to 125 in the Holsteins.

Pulse Rate: Figures 9 and 10 show that pulse rate followed temperature, increasing with rising environmental temperature and decreasing with falling temperature. The sensitivity of pulse rate to diurnal change did not appear to be dependent on temperature level or breed. Pulse rate also showed a tendency to rise after feeding and fall between feedings. Large differences in pulse tares between individual animals, and random fluctuations blurred the sharpness of the diurnal pattern.

Heat Storage and Body Size: Figure 11 shows that rectal temperature lagged behind ambient temperature but was otherwise closely correlated. This time-lag was obviously related to the heat storage capacity of the animal body. During the 50° to 110° F diurnal change in ambient temperature shown in Figure 11, the maximal daily excursions in rectal temperature were 5.4° F in the Holsteins and 4.3° Fin the Jerseys. The greater change in rectal temperature in the 1300-pound Holsteins than in the 850pound Jerseys does not necessarily discredit the heat storage concept. Heat storage is proportional to average body temperature rather than rectal temperature, and it is possible that the greater change in average body temperature occurred in the smaller animals. Skin temperatures were found to vary as much as 26° F in the Jerseys but only 14° F in the Holsteins.\*\*

The advantage of great heat storage capacity of the large animal may be offset by other factors. Heat dissipation is a function of surface area.

\*\*Unpublished data by R. E. Stewart. Details will be published in a research bulletin of this series.



Fig. 7—Respiration rates in the individual cows of Group A were affected by all except the 10° to 40° F diurnal temperature cycles. Maximum rates were attained during the 50° to 110° F cycles. It is perhaps significant in regard to body temperature regulation, that the rise in respiration rate was greater in the small Jerseys than in the large Holsteins, whereas the rise in rectal temperature (Fig. 3 and 4) was greater in Holsteins than in Jerseys. This inverse relationship between respiration rate and rectal temperature does not seem to hold for the animals of different size within breeds.



Fig. 8-Respiration rates in the individual cows of Group B during diurnal cycles in ambient temperature. It is interesting that the respiration rates reached much higher levels in the Jerseys during the 60° to 110° F cycles than during the 70° to 100° F cycles although the rectal temperatures were about the same.

Therefore, an animal that produces a great amount of heat per unit area is at a disadvantage in maintaining heat balance. During the 50° to 110° F cycles, the average heat production in Cal/m<sup>2</sup>/hr was 170 in the Holsteins compared to 162 in the Jerseys. The greater productivity of the Holsteins may have accounted for this difference. Milk production in kg/m<sup>2</sup>/day was





3.6 in the Holsteins, 2.5 in the Jerseys. Feed consumption in kg/m<sup>2</sup>/day TDN was 1.95 in the Holsteins, 1.68 in the Jerseys.<sup>+</sup>

†The data on milk production and feed consumption were computed from Tables 3 and 5 of Ref. 2. On a fat-corrected basis, the milk production per unit surface area was the same in both breeds during the 60° to 110° F diurnal cycles.



Fig. 10-Pulse rates in the individual cows of Group B during diurnal cycles in ambient temperature. Like Fig. 9, this chart summarizes a large body of data omitted from the tables. Figs. 9 and 10 show that pulse rates were generally lowest from 2 a.m. to 9 a.m. and were highest from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

High respiration rates in the Jerseys, as shown in the bottom section of Figure 10, may have aided in increasing evaporative cooling from the respiratory tract and oral surfaces. Figure 1 does not show greater respiratory vaporization per unit surface area in the Jerseys than Holsteins but the



Fig. 11-Rectal temperature and respiration rate by breed averages relative to 50° to 100° F diurnal cycles in ambient temperature for the cows of Group A. The bottom section shows the absolute changes in these functions. The two upper sections compare their phase relations. The top section, for example, shows that ambient temperature reached 40 percent of its 60° F rise by 10:20 a.m. but that rectal temperature did not make a comparable 40 percent rise until 11:35 a.m. in the Holsteins and 12:45 p.m. in the Jerseys. Rectal temperature, therefore, lagged behind rising ambient temperature by 1 hour and 15 minutes in the Holsteins and by 2 hours and 25 minutes in the Jerseys at the 40 percent level. During falling ambient temperature, however, the lag was greater in the Holsteins than Jerseys. Respiration rate, on the other hand, rose more rapidly in the Jerseys than Holsteins with increasing ambient temperature but fell more slowly in the Jerseys than Holsteins with decreasing ambient temperature. It appears that the high respiration rates in the Jerseys may have increased their respiratory evaporative cooling and so have aided them in holding their rectal temperatures below those of the Holsteins.

measurements were probably affected by the use of a mask. Free respiration rates were higher in the Jerseys than Holsteins at high temperatures by about 30 respirations per minute. During the respiratory vaporization measurements with a mask, however, this margin was decreased to 15. It, therefore, seems probable that respiratory vaporization per unit of surface area was greater in the Jerseys than Holsteins at high ambient temperatures except during the brief periods of measurements using a mask. The middle section of Figure 11 shows that respiration rates not only rose to higher levels in the Jerseys than Holsteins but also more rapidly with increasing ambient temperature and fell more slowly with decreasing ambient temperature.

In brief, it appears that the smaller change in rectal temperature in Jerseys than in Holsteins exposed to the same 50° to 110° F diurnal ambient temperatures can be explained as follows: (1) heat production per unit surface area was slightly lower in the Jerseys than in the Holsteins; (2) the apparent heat storage capacity of the smaller Jerseys was increased by greater peripheral cooling during cool periods in the temperature cycles; and (3) higher respiration rates probably increased respiratory evaporative cooling more in the Jerseys than Holsteins.

#### SUMMARY

Two groups of six Jerseys and six Holstein cows, all lactating, were exposed to diurnal temperature cycles of the following amplitudes; 10° to  $40^{\circ}$ ,  $40^{\circ}$  to 70°, 70° to 100°, 50° to 110°, and 60° to 110° F; and to vapor pressures ranging from 1 to 25 mm Hg. Data were obtained for corresponding diurnal changes in heat production, respiration rate, pulmonary ventilation rate, pulse rate, rectal temperature, and respiratory vaporization.

Heat production appeared to be adjusted to the mean temperature within a given diurnal cycle, but it also was influenced by acclimatization effects. Heat production was highest during the 10° to 40° diurnal cycle and was depressed during the higher temperature cycles. Peak values were reached twice a day after the morning and afternoon feedings. Flattening of the afternoon peaks occurred during the 50° to 110° F and 60° to 110° F cycles because of reduced afternoon feed consumption and a tendency on the part of the cows to defer much of their feeding until the cool early morning hours.

Respiratory vaporization proved to be an important means of heat dissipation at high temperatures. At the low point of the 10° to 40° F temperature cycle, only about 6 percent of the heat produced was dissipated by this method, but at the high points of the 50° to 110° and 60° to 110° F cycles, as much as 35 percent of the heat produced was dissipated by respiratory vaporization. Generally speaking, the ratio of the heat loss by respiratory vaporization to heat production tended to increase with temperature and with feeding.

Pulmonary ventilation rate and respiration rate, which are related to the respiratory evaporative heat dissipation function, likewise cycled with the ambient temperature rhythm. Within diurnal cycles, pulmonary ventilation rate increased with temperature and feeding but never more than twofold in the Holsteins or three-fold in the Jerseys. Respiration rate per minute was not affected by the 10° to 40° cycles but increased with rising temperature from 35 to 155 in the Jerseys and from 50 to 125 in the Holsteins during the  $50^\circ$  to  $110^\circ$  F cycles.

Pulse rate tended to increase with rising temperature and feeding and to decrease with faliing temperature and between feeding. Diurnal patterns were confused because of random fluctuations and individual differences.

Rectal temperatures varied less than 2° F during the 10° to 40° and 40° to 70" F diurnal temperature cycles Increases in rectal temperarure of 2" ro  $4^{\circ}$  F in the Jerseys and 3.5 to 7 $^{\circ}$  F in the Holsteins occurred during the 70 $^{\circ}$ to  $100^\circ$ ,  $50^\circ$  to  $110^\circ$ , and  $60^\circ$  to  $110^\circ$  F diurnal cycles. Decreases of  $1^\circ$  to 1.5° F below normal occurred in two Jerseys and one Holstein during the coldest part of the 50° to 110° F diurnal cycle.

Although rectal temperature and respiration rate generally followed the cyclic pattern of the diurnally changing ambient temperature, varying timelags appeared in their responses. During the 50° to 110° F diurnal cycles, the rise in rectal temperature lagged behind that in ambient temperature by 1 to 2 hours in the Holsteins and by 2 to 3 hours in the Jerseys. The fall in rectal temperature to normal levels with decreasing ambient temperature required about 9 hours in the Holsteins but only 5 hours in the Jerseys. Respiration rate, on the other hand, rose more rapidly and fell more slowly in the Jerseys than in the Holsteins.

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# APPENDIX TABLES

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#### TABLE 1 -- SCHEDULE OF TESTS AND EXPERIMENTAL CONDITIONS

\*40<sup>0</sup>-105<sup>0</sup>F during first week, 50<sup>0</sup>-110<sup>0</sup>F during second and third weeks.<br>\*\*From March 11 to 18, room temperature was brought up to 700F.<br>†Room temperature was held at 60<sup>0</sup>F from May 7 to 12 because of the poor condi animals.



TABLE 2 -- EFFECTS OF DIURNAL TEMPERATURE CHANGES ON RESPIRATORY EXCHANGE MEASUREMENTS IN HOLSTEIN AND JERSEY COWS (Oct. 5, 1953--Jan. 21, 1954)

\*Gas values were corrected to dry STP (0<sup>o</sup>C, 760 mm Hg) conditions.

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## TABLE 3 -- INFLUENCE OF DIURNAL TEMPERATURE CYCLES ON EVAPORATIVE COOLING FROM THE RESPIRATORY TRACT IN JERSEY AND HOLSTEIN COWS

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TABLE 4 -- EFFECTS OF DIURNAL TEMPERATURE CHANGES ON RESPIRATORY EXCHANGE MEASUREMENTS IN HOLSTEIN AND JERSEY COWS (Feb. 5, 1954--May 12, 1954)

![](_page_24_Picture_13.jpeg)

\*Holstein 184 was removed from the laboratory, May 1.<br>\*\*Jersey 295 was removed from the laboratory, March 9.<br>†Gas volumes were corrected to dry STP (0°C, 760 mm Hg) conditions.

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![](_page_25_Picture_14.jpeg)

#### TABLE 5 -- INFLUENCE OF DIURNAL TEMPERATURE CYCLES ON EVAPORATIVE COOLING FROM THE RESPIRATORY TRACT IN JERSEY AND HOLSTEIN COWS (Feb. 1954--May 1954)

![](_page_26_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_21.jpeg)

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CONTINUED TABLE 5

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