

# Heat stress in Sheep & Goats

Compiled by

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- Sheep and Goats tend to be less susceptible to heat stress than other livestock
- **Goats :**
  - Goat tolerates heat better than sheep
  - Goats with loose skin and floppy ears are more heat tolerant
- **Sheep :**
  - Wool Sheep tolerates extreme heat
  - **Black skin S/G suffers more with heat stress**
  - Sheep with a one-inch fleece are more tolerant to heat than Sheep with less wool
  - Lambs are very susceptible to heat stress



## Avoiding Heat stress

- Provide plenty of clean, fresh water
- **Change waterers more often**
- Provide waterers in shade
- **Provide electrolytes**
- Provide easy access to shade
- **Provide extra artificial shade /Shelter**
- Not to shear Sheep and Goats in extreme heat
- **Avoid transportation**



## Indicators of heat stress

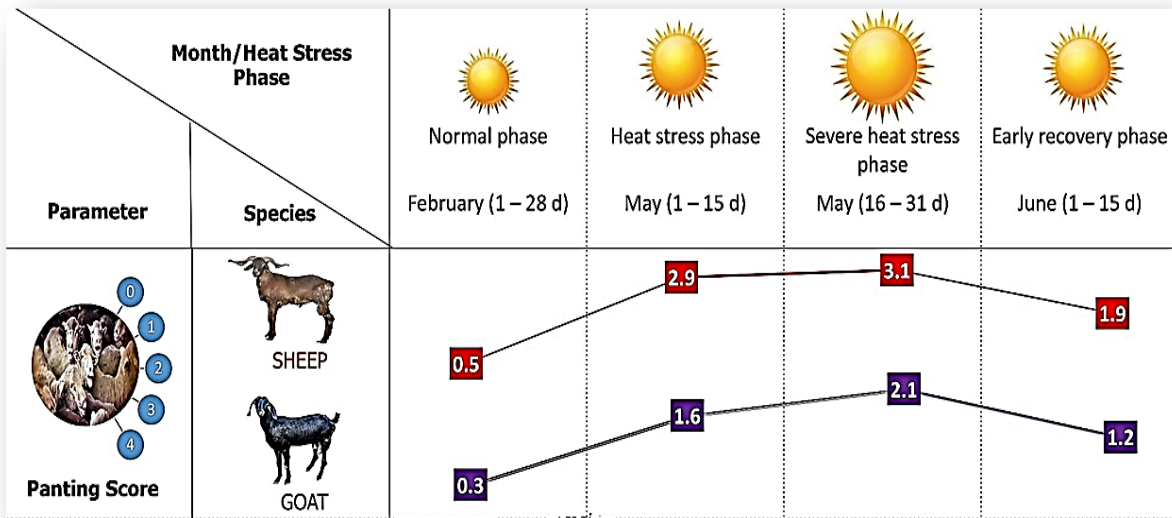
- **Behavior** & **Panting score** ( 0 – 4) are the two indicators of Heat stress

### Heat stress Behavior

- Increased standing
- Decreased dry matter intake
- Crowding at water troughs
- Increased water intake
- Bunching ( to seek shade from other Sheep )
- Increased respiratory rate

## Panting score # measured as 0 - 4

0 – Normal    1 – Moderate    2 – Cautious    3 – Severe    4 - Extreme



## Measuring heat stress

- The **Heat index** (temperature plus humidity) is a more accurate measure of heat stress than temperature alone

## Reading Heat Index

- The **Heat index** is a read of External temperature & humidity
- It is used to measure heat stress in Sheep & Goats

### Reading Heat Index ?

Ex : as per below chart, if humidity is 50% & Temp is 86 F

= **Heat Index is 88**

- The ambient Heat stress Index for Sheep & Goats is 35-40

