



Keeping Cool

Enjoy a frozen fruit treat and learn about ways that farmers keep their animals cool in summer.



Summer in Maryland can get hot! July is usually the warmest month, with temperatures averaging in the mid to upper 80's. Farmers work hard to keep their livestock cool and comfortable in the heat.

To keep animals cool, farmers can ...

provide shade in outdoor areas.	Animals must have access to shade. If there are no trees in the area, farmers can buy or build temporary shade structures.
make sure animals have cool, clean drinking water.	Some livestock get water from farm ponds and creeks, while others rely on watering systems. Some farmers freeze giant blocks of ice to add to water troughs.
monitor air movement inside farm buildings.	Barns and other farm buildings housing animals must have windows and vents. Fans can provide a cooling breeze and help to keep insects away. Reducing the number of animals inside the building at one time also allows for better air circulation.
use sprinkler systems.	Many animals enjoy standing under a cooling mist. Some farm buildings have indoor sprinkler systems. Farmers also use outside sprinkler systems which can be moved by tractors.
feed animals early and late in the day, and monitor food intake.	Early morning and early evening are the coolest times of the day. This is when many animals are fed during the summer months. Some animals eat less in the heat, so farmers often change their food to make sure they are getting adequate nutrition.

To read more about keeping farm animals cool in summer click [here](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/y4w7ffj5>

To watch a video about keeping livestock safe in summer heat click [here](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/32yyezv4>

To watch a video about keeping animals cool on a small farm click [here](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/22k67d8r>

During the hot summer months, some farmers freeze fruits and vegetables to feed their animals as a special treat. Frozen fruit can be a special treat for people too!

Frozen Fruit Kebobs (for people)

You will need:

fruit, a knife, kebob sticks, a plate or tray

Instructions:

1. Cut large fruit into slices or chunks.
2. Slide fruit pieces onto a kebob stick in any order you like.
3. Place kebobs on plate and place in freezer for 2 – 3 hours.



Possible Fruit Combinations:

- strawberries with banana
- watermelon with grapes
- orange with mango



Other Frozen Fruits to Try:

blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, kiwi, pineapple

