Heat, humidity hard on cattle

tage when it comes to handling some kinds of to 105 degrees or above. heat. Soaring temperatures and high humidity are taking a deadly toll, a Kansas State University veterinarian said.

'Cattle lack the ability to sweat significantly, so it is critical that producers and livestock handlers take steps to reduce heat stress before conditions become dangerous," said K-State Research and Extension veterinarian Larry Hollis. "High daytime temperature by itself rarely causes problems. It is a combination of the humidity with heat that creates the maximum heat load on cattle."

He cited this month's reports of thousands of cattle deaths attributed to the weather mix. Temperatures well into the 90 F range coupled the water source, panting, salivating exces-

Other factors compounded the cattle's lack of ability to perspire. Several days in a row of high temperatures, a lack of nighttime cooling, lack of shade or cloud cover, lack of wind, lack of air movement in pens, and grazing on endophyte-infested fescue pastures can all create problems for cattle, Hollis said.

In addition, animals with dark hides and/or heavy body weights, or in advanced stages of pregnancy are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of such weather.

"Producers should watch for signs of heatrelated distress.... The signs can include cattle going off feed, standing with their head over

Compared to people, cattle have a disadvan- with high humidity levels to push heat indices sively, or open-mouthed breathing," he added. Producers and feedlot managers should con-

sider ways to alleviate the stress, including:

- · Avoid gathering or working cattle after mid-morning;
- Provide access to abundant cold water/waterer space and make sure the water flow rate is adequate;
 - Provide access to shade;
- Provide the ability to move away from anything that reduces air flow, even cutting down weeds around pens;
 - Use sprinklers wet the skin;
 - Control flies;
 - Make arrangements with fire department.
 - "And, don't forget about the people," Hollis

Online tool measures threat to livestock

sity veterinarian Larry Hollis.

feedlot managers determine the Foundation: www.noble.org/Ag/ risk of such conditions, the Uni- Livestock/Heat/. "When there is versity of Nebraska developed no daytime wind and/or night-

according to Kansas State Univer- Weather Hazard Guide, posted on the Ardmore, Okla., website To help cattle producers and of the Samuel Roberts Noble

Handcuffed man flees cruiser

somehow managed to open a pocomplaining he was claustrophobic and couldn't breathe.

Altamonte Springs police say off running.

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. the officer had opened the win-(AP) - Police in central Florida dows slightly for 19-year-old say a man who was handcuffed Ridgh Genesis Achille, who had been arrested Friday night on a lice cruiser's door and escape after shoplifting charge. On the way to the jail, the man somehow opened the door from the outside and took



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reach a score of 75 (on the Temperature-Humidity Index), producers should be on the alert for heat stress problems," Hollis said. "When the index reaches 79, the situation has reached the danger point. An index of 84 means emergency conditions exist."

Panting scores give the best visual method to estimate the severity of heat stress on cattle, he add-

A string of hot, humid days this a Temperature-Humidity Index. time temperatures do not drop ed. If cattle are panting at a rate summer have taken a toll on cattle, The index is part of a Livestock below 75 degrees so conditions of 80 to 120 breaths per minute, they are in moderate stress; 120 to 160 breaths per minute mark the danger zone; and more than 160 is considered an emergency.

"When they see signs of moderate heat stress, producers may have a very short time to provide a mechanism for cooling the cattle before the situation becomes life-threatening," the veterinarian

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Man keeps rattlesnakes

had 25 Western rattlesnakes in a five-gallon bucket in his apartment has been issued two find a buyer and had contacted misdemeanor citations by the state's Department of Fish and Game.

Officials say Terry Brian Teeter had as many as 32 snakes but he gave some away and ate life. He has a sentencing schedtwo others.

The 38-year-old says he was unaware a license is needed to

MALTA, Idaho (AP) — An hunt rattlesnakes in Idaho. He Idaho man who authorities say says he also didn't know that

there's a limit of four a year. Teeter says he was trying to a research center which milks

snakes for venom.

Teeter received the citations in May that list possession, transport or shipment of wilduled on Friday in district court on a possible plea agreement.

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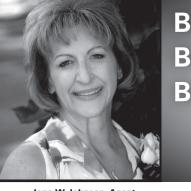
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