



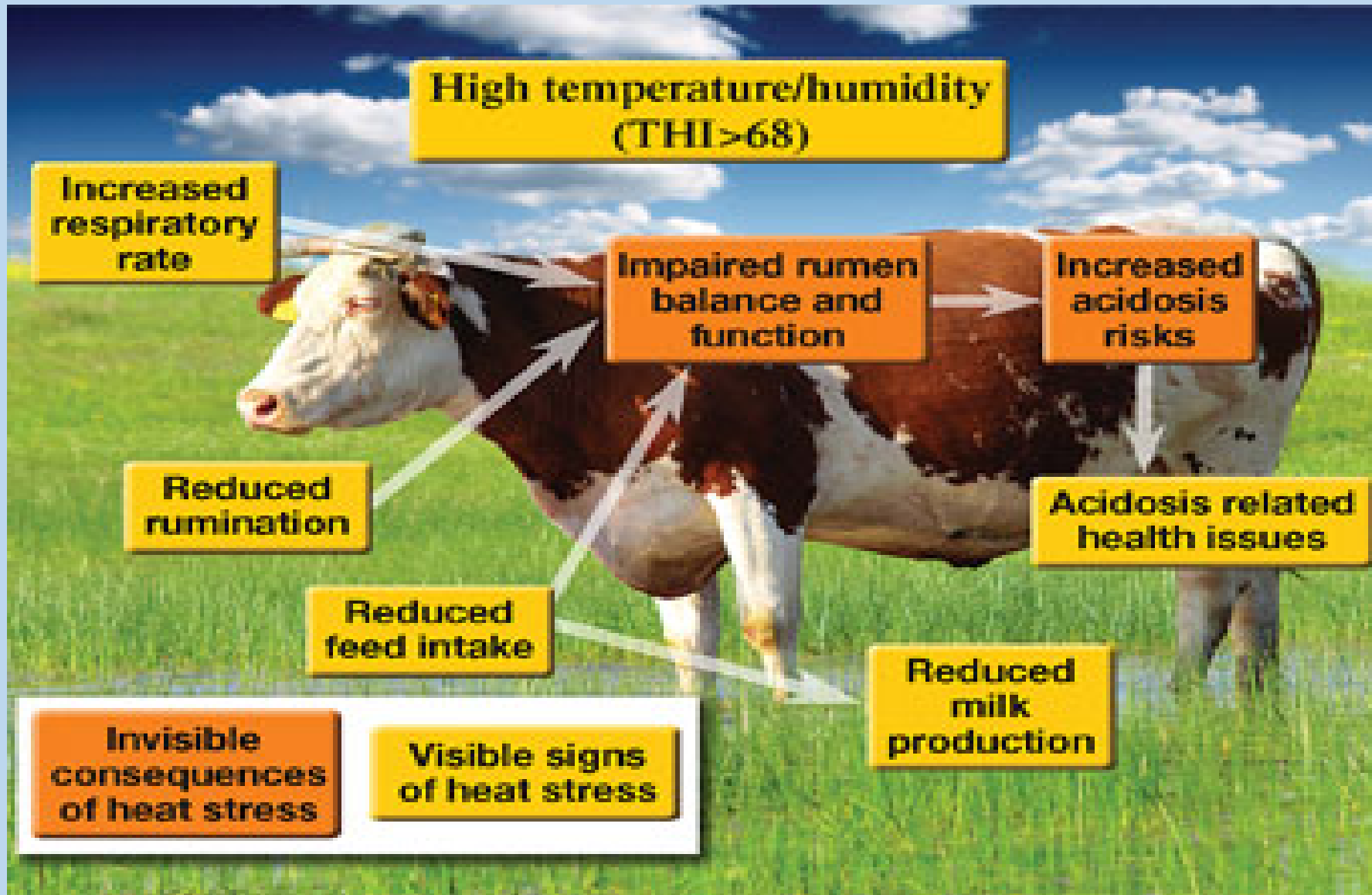
Nighttime cooling reduces milk yield of lactating dairy cows exposed to heat stress

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Background

Effects of heat stress



Basic management schemes for reducing the effects of heat stress;

- ✓ Genetic development of breeds that are less sensitive to heat,
- ✓ Nutritional management,
- ✓ Physical modification of the environment (especially fans, sprinklers, etc.)

Fans, sprinklers and a combination of misters and fans, and nutritional modification have all been the focus of research on reducing heat stress and subsequent reductions in feed intake and milk production in lactating cows in a hot environment (West, 1999; 2003).



The body temperature of ruminants is higher during the day than at night (Sunagawa *et al.* 2015). The efficiency of body heat dissipation is dependent upon the difference in the temperature of the surface of the body and the ambient temperature.



It is thought that decreases in milk production of dairy cows in hot and humid environment may be reduced effectively by nighttime cooling when heat producing activity of the day is reduced and body heat is more readily transferred to the surface of the body for dissipation.

Objective

- In order to prove this hypothesis, this research compared the effects of both daytime and nighttime cooling periods on performance, milk composition and physiological parameters of dairy cattle.

Materials and methods

Two experiments were conducted.

Parameters	Daytime cooling (Experiment I)	Nighttime cooling (Experiment II)
Animals (head)	28 Holstein dairy cows	28 Holstein dairy cows
Parity (lactation)	2.6±0.84	2.9±1.24
Daily in milk (day)	123.9±37.64	141.3±52.51
Body weight (kg)	552.0±46.9	568.4±54.08
Milk yield	29.0±4.08	30.7±3.68

Treatments

- ✓ Treatments were identical in both of the experiments;
 - ❑ Control (without cooling)
 - ❑ Sprinklers,
 - ❑ Fans,
 - ❑ Sprinklers + Fans.
- ✓ However cooling was applied 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. in Experiment I whereas 10.00 p.m. – 5.00 a.m in Experiment II.

Feeding regime

✓ Total mixed ration

Corn silage,

Alfalfa hay,

Wheat straw

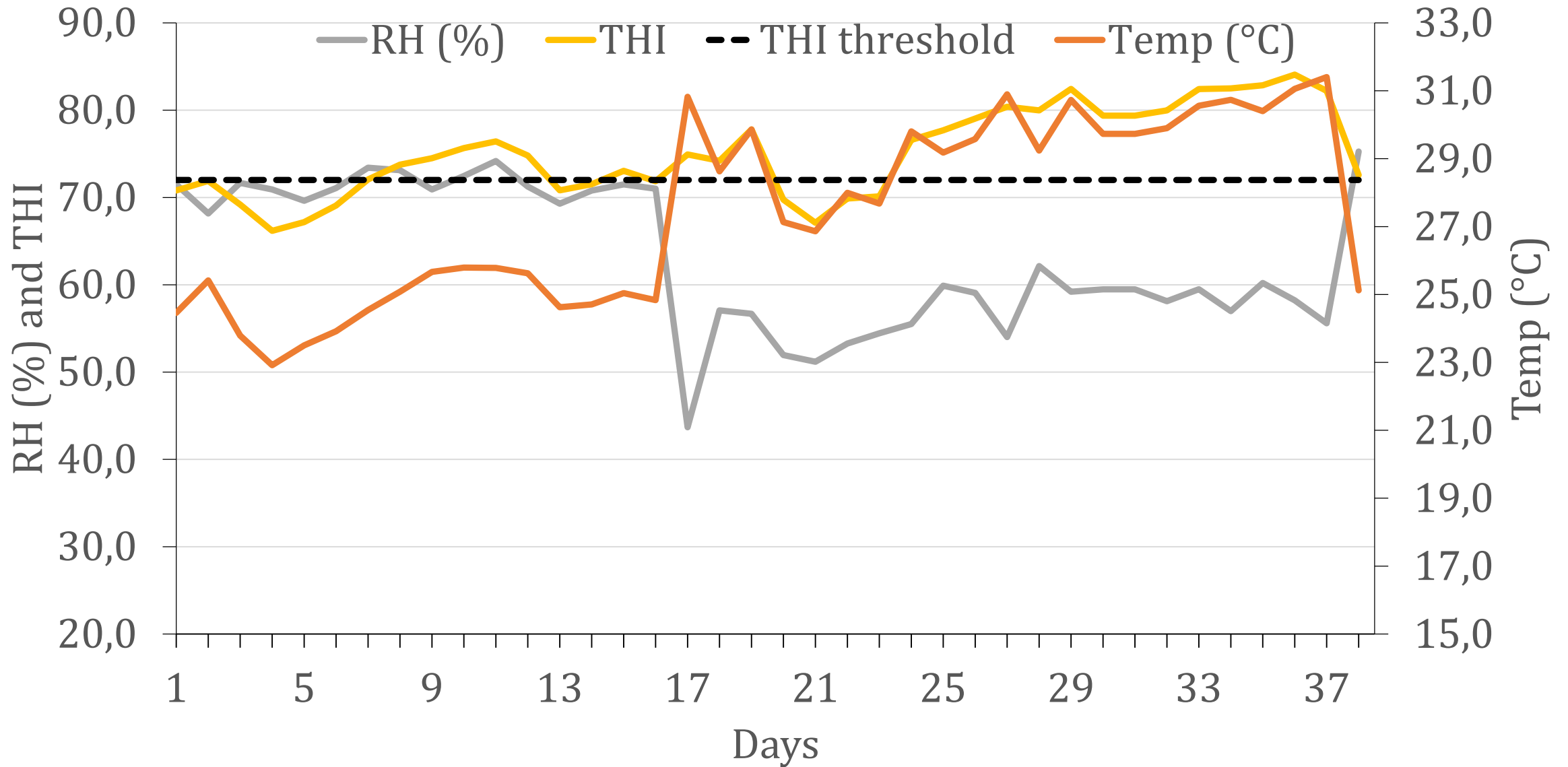
Concentrate (18% crude protein and 2650 kcal/kg metabolizable energy).

Measurements and statistics

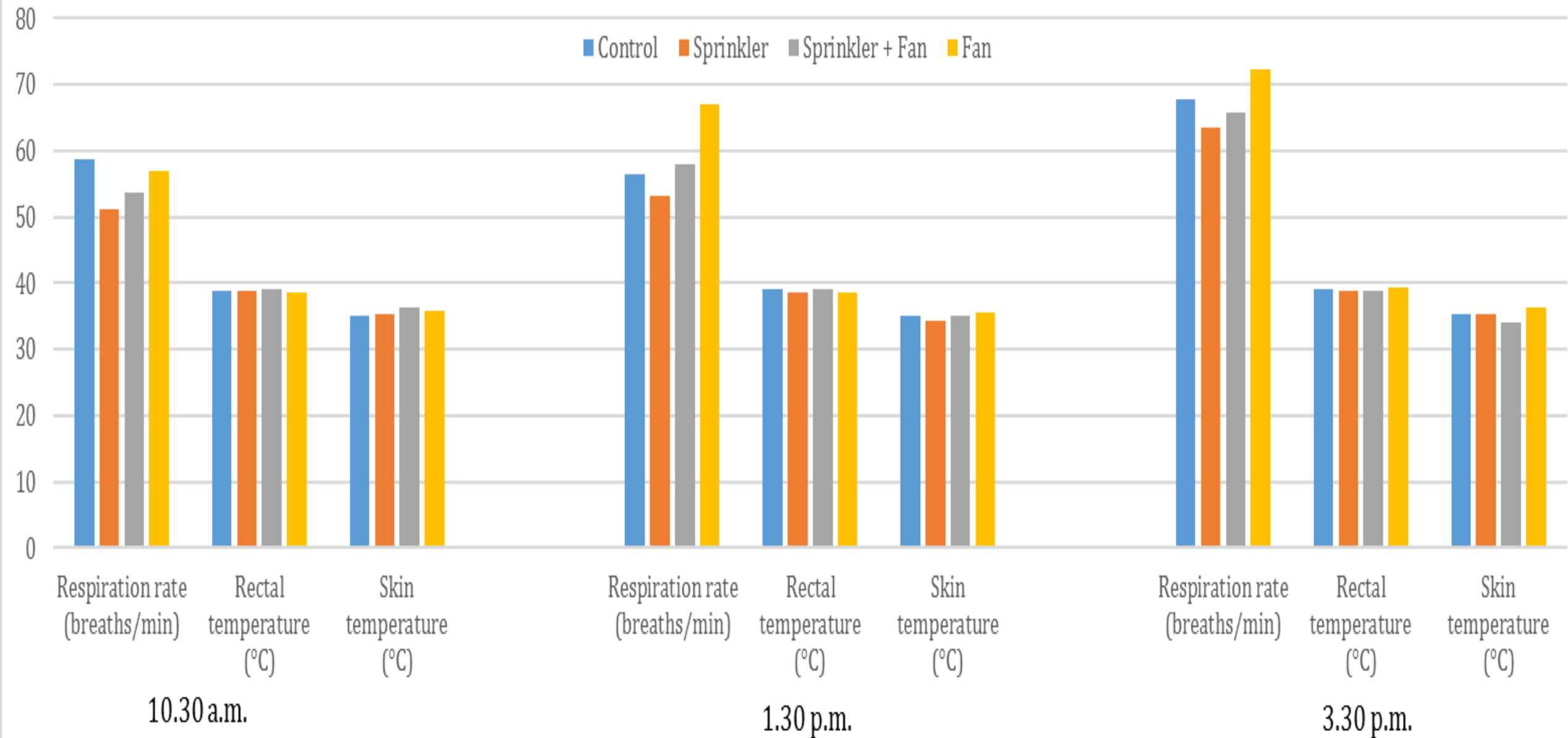
- ✓ Milk yield and dry matter intake; daily,
- ✓ Milk samples; 2 times per week and analyzed for components,
- ✓ Body weight; weekly,
- ✓ Respiration rate, rectal temperature, skin temperature; 2 times per week (10.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m., and 3.30 a.m.),
- ✓ PROC MIXED with repeated measurement (contrast statement)

Results

Relative humidity, temperature, temperature humidity index, and THI threshold during Experiment I



Physiological responses of dairy cattle cooled daytime (10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.)

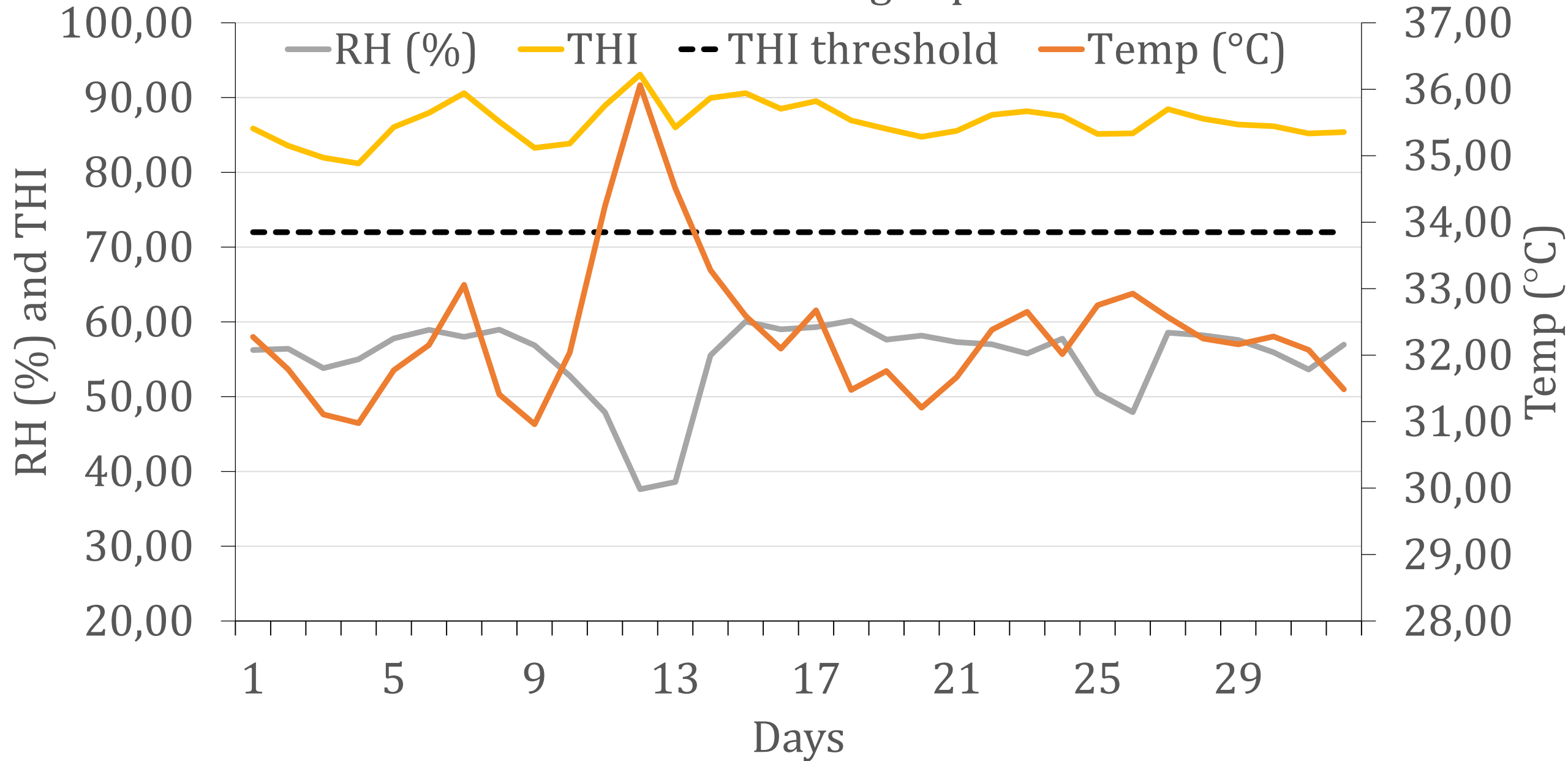


Effects of daytime cooling (10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.) on performance of dairy cows

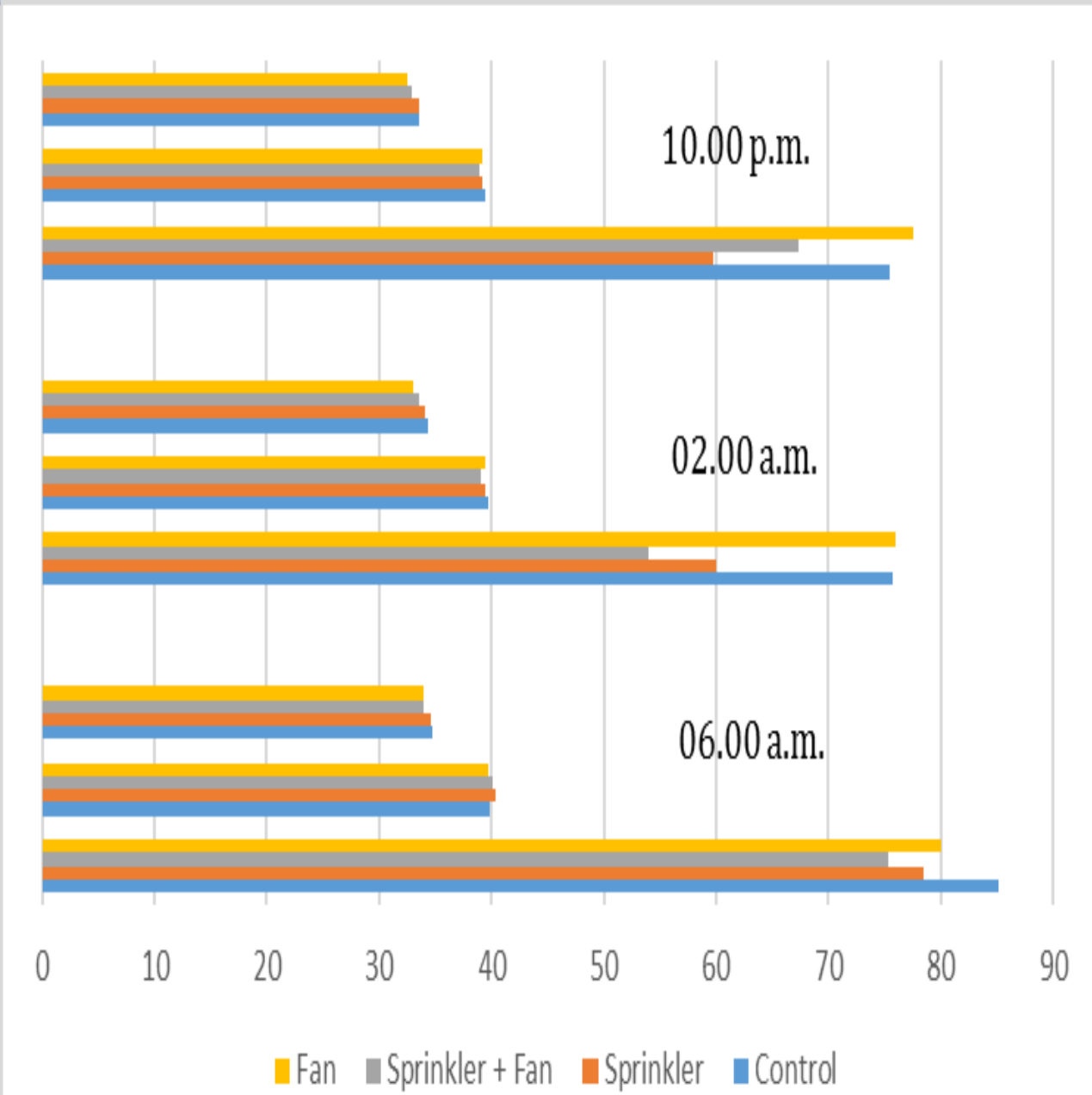
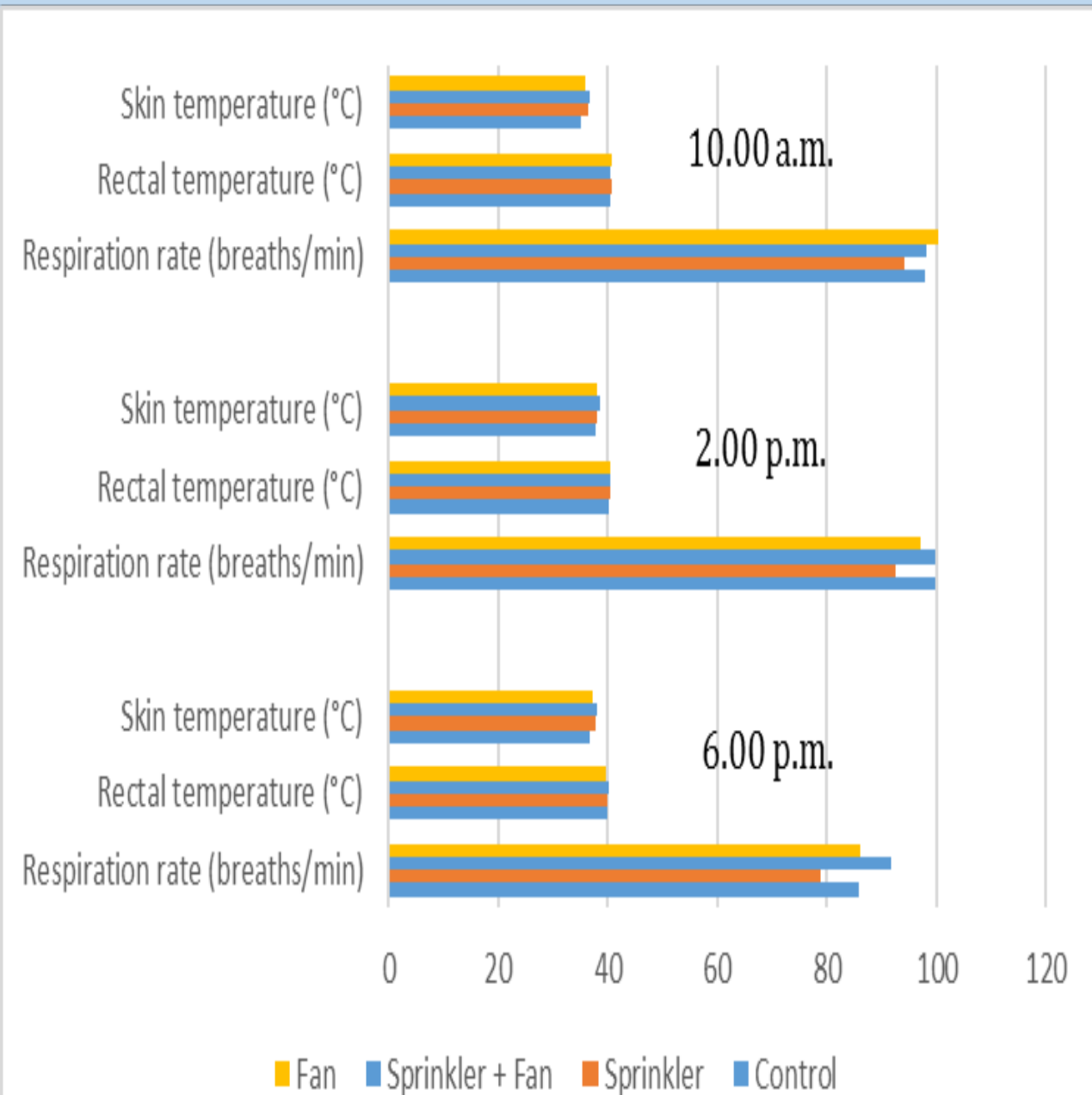
	Treatments				SEM	Contrast						
	Control	Sprinkler	Sprinkler + Fan	Fan		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Milk yield (kg/day)	27.0	28.1	28.2	27.4	0.30	0.083	0.068	0.297	0.917	<0.01	<0.01	0.301
Dry matter intake (kg/day)	19.6	21.2	22.0	21.3	0.23	0.823	0.024	<0.01	0.013	<0.01	<0.01	0.200
Body weight (kg)	540.4	550.5	550.1	547.3	10.70	0.829	0.850	0.652	0.979	0.507	0.524	0.983
Total solids (%)	11.9	12.0	12.4	11.6	0.21	0.597	0.057	0.355	0.141	0.133	<0.01	0.545
Fat (%)	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.8	0.19	0.833	0.165	0.597	0.094	0.732	0.053	0.791
Protein (%)	3.1	3.2	3.2	2.9	0.05	0.082	0.239	<0.01	0.572	<0.01	<0.01	0.934
Lactose (%)	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.7	0.03	0.025	<0.01	0.582	0.316	<0.01	<0.01	0.054
Urea-N (mg/dL)	22.7	22.4	22.6	22.1	0.72	0.748	0.954	0.602	0.787	0.823	0.633	0.717

1: Control vs. sprinkler 4: Sprinkler vs. fan 7: Control vs. cooling
 2: Control vs. fan 5: Sprinkler vs. sprinkler+fan
 3: Control vs. sprinkler+fan 6: Sprinkler+fan vs. fan

Relative humidity, temperature, temperature humidity index, and THI threshold during Experiment II



Physiological responses of dairy cattle cooled nighttime (10.00 p.m. – 5.00 a.m.)



Effects of nighttime cooling (10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.) on performance of dairy

	Treatments				SEM	Contrast						
	Control	Sprinkler	Sprinkler + Fan	Fan		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Milk yield (kg/day)	28.8	31.7	31.2	30.3	0.27	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.206	<0.01	0.028	<0.01
Dry matter intake (kg/day)	18.4	19.7	19.6	18.7	0.18	<0.01	0.407	<0.01	<0.01	0.980	<0.01	0.070
Bodyweight (kg)	549.9	528.8	534.4	533.6	10.49	0.155	0.305	0.262	0.714	0.744	0.958	0.142
Total solids (%)	12.0	11.5	12.6	11.9	0.16	0.036	0.013	0.810	<0.01	0.062	<0.01	0.939
Fat (%)	3.3	2.7	3.6	3.3	0.12	<0.01	0.107	0.796	<0.01	<0.01	0.172	0.602
Protein (%)	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	0.04	0.061	0.092	0.047	<0.01	0.952	<0.01	0.381
Lactose (%)	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	0.04	0.040	<0.01	0.840	0.282	0.063	<0.01	0.025
Urea-N (mg/dL)	23.0	25.5	23.6	23.6	0.58	<0.01	0.482	0.469	0.040	0.032	0.994	0.077

1: Control vs. sprinkler 4: Sprinkler vs. fan 7: Control vs. cooling
 2: Control vs. fan 5: Sprinkler vs. sprinkler+fan
 3: Control vs. sprinkler+fan 6: Sprinkler+fan vs. fan

Overall

- ✓ In the experiment I, cows received mild heat stress, on the other hand, in the second experiment, cows received moderate heat stress.
- ✓ Daytime cooling did not effect performance and physiological parameters of dairy cows, whereas night cooling and especially sprinklers treatment increase daily milk yield while decreasing of dry matter intake



Thank you for your attention