

Choosing the Correct Cattle Supplementation

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Priorities in Supplement Selection

1. Energy
 - a. Give the cattle enough to eat
 - b. Energy drives productive output
 - c. Generally requires larger amounts
2. Protein
 - a. Improves forage utilization
 - b. Feed both the rumen and the animal
 - c. Generally a smaller amount of feed compared to energy
3. Minerals
 - a. Essential to many metabolic life processes
 - b. Come from forage, feed, supplements
 - c. Low/no supply inhibits performance

Choosing Supplements

- Start feeding the supplement before the grass runs out
- Supplement only those animals where there is an economic return
- Feed supplement where/how all cattle have access to the supplement
- Monitor cow body condition score, best reflection of nutrient supply
- No one feed alternative is perfect
 - Energy: fiber vs starch
 - Protein: degradable vs bypass
 - Mineral: Excess vs deficiency, balance
 - Concentrated source of some characteristic (fat, minerals)
- Comparing supplements
 - Determine level of intake
 - Determine concentration of nutrients
 - Determine \$/lb of nutrient supplemented
 - Factor in all cost/benefits associated with feeding
 - Suitability - Convenience
- $\$/\text{CWT feed} = \$ \text{ per ton} \div 20$
 - $\$11.25 = \$225 \div 20$
- $\$/\text{CWT feed dry matter} = \$/\text{cwt} \div (\% \text{dry matter} \div 100)$ - use to compare liquid and dry supplements
 - $\$12.23 = \$11.25 \div (92\% \div 100)$
- $\$/\text{CWT Nutrient (TDN or CP)} = \$/\text{cwt} \div (\% \text{Nutrient} \div 100)$
 - $\$16.07 = \$11.25 \div (70\% \div 100)$