

# Cobb Shipping Service

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## February Newsletter

### *Time to Supplement the Beef Herd*

The next few months are a critical time for the pregnant beef cow. The spring calving beef cow has increased nutritional requirements at this time of year and this is the most important time to provide supplemental nutrition.

The accelerated growth rate of the baby calf that has been growing inside her has increased her nutrient needs. In order to have a healthy calf the beef cow should be provided adequate protein, energy and vitamins and minerals. Skimping on these can be costly if we get weak calves that are more susceptible to ailments. For example, supplementing selenium and vitamin E can prevent white muscle disease in calves.

Following calving, the beef cow has the highest nutrient requirements. She is now nursing the calf and thus she has an increased nutrient demand for milk production. In addition, to milk production, we need to get the cow pregnant so we can have next year's calf crop born when we want it. Providing adequate nutrition can increase the likelihood that the cow will settle and start growing next year's calf crop.

After the cows are bred and the calves are growing on green pasture, you should consider creep feeding the calves. With strong beef prices, the extra weight gain that the calves will make when creep fed will provide a good return on investment. For example, if we creep feed the calves with Prime 32 % Bovatec for 120 days it would cost about \$ 27 a head. If we assume an additional weight gain of 55 pounds during that period and that feeder calves will be worth \$ 1.75 per pound we get an additional \$ 96.25 worth of beef to sell.

Cobb Shipping stocks a wide variety of products to supplement your beef herd. There are several different liquid feed formulations as well as tubs. We are ready to discuss and deliver these products if you give us a call. 608-943-8008

