

Cobb Shipping Service

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Bale Pouring is a Great Alternative

In this day and age, it seems that in order to make a profit with livestock that we must intensely watch the cost of production. Years ago it was common to feed pelleted protein to beef cows or even growing cattle. Today, economically minded farmers are trying to reduce the cost of production while maintaining a healthy herd with desired weight gains.

Bale pouring can be part of a strategy to feed beef cows or growing cattle a low cost ration that still provides the nutrition for desired performance. Let's examine corn stalks as a feed ingredient. This readily available item is only about 5 % protein on a dry basis. Corn stalks are digestible and contain energy that can support modest weight gains. When we consider the fact that we would like at least 12 -14 % protein in a growing ration than we can see where corn stalks fall short of meeting that requirement. If we pour the bales with Precision 40 % Liquid Feed, we can increase the protein of the stalk bales to about 8 % plus we have added vitamins and minerals, sugar and palatability. While this isn't enough protein to meet the requirements of growing cattle, it will combine nicely with some hay and grain to meet nutritional guidelines.

Now let's examine the economics of pouring the bales. I will assign a cost of \$ 25.00 to the bales and \$ 450 per ton for the Precision 40 %. Assuming a treatment rate of 10 % of bale weight, we would add 100 pounds of liquid feed to a 1000 pound bale. Treating the bale would cost \$22.50 per bale to get a final value of \$ 35.00 per bale. The other benefits of treating the bale are that the improved palatability reduces feed wastage and improves feed utilization by the cattle.

Cobb Shipping can provide on farm storage tanks for bale pouring or we can pour the bales for you. Either way you end up with a low cost alternative feed ingredient to help the bottom line.

