

Why Supplement When You Have Pasture ?

The success of any pasture feeding program depends largely upon the quantity and quality of available forage. Many discussions regarding pasture feeding are primarily concerned with the QUANTITY rather than the QUALITY of the pasture. However, even where forage is abundant, pasture grazing of livestock RARELY provides the nutrients necessary for adequate and sustained growth.

Pastures seldom provide adequate amounts of nutrients because of infertile soils, insufficient quantity of grass available, lush grass, and weathered, trampled, leached or bleached grasses. Also, the forage INCREASES in fiber and lignin and DECREASES in nutrients as it matures through the summer months.

Grasses go through 3 stages of growth and a stage of dormancy. At each stage, some nutrients are more available than others.

Stage 1: The new growing season begins when rains start germination of the stored seed. The grass may contain adequate energy and protein on a DM basis, but because of high water content in the forage, livestock may be unable to consume enough forage to meet their nutritional needs.

Stage 2: Rapid growth occurs with warming conditions. Animal performance may improve during this stage as the grass is usually nutritionally adequate for maintenance early in this stage. As Stage 2 progresses, nutrient quality DECLINES. When soil moisture begins to be depleted and the plants mature, growth slows and deficiencies occur.

Stage 3: During the latter portion of the growing season, forage is normally LOW in energy and LOW in protein but energy is usually the limiting factor. This is the primary reason why livestock performance DECLINES when forage matures.

THIS IS WHERE COBBS SHIPPING COMES TO THE RESCUE!!

Free-choice supplementation with a Westway liquid feed product offers producers a cost effective option in compensating for the nutritional deficiencies that occur in pasture feeding.

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