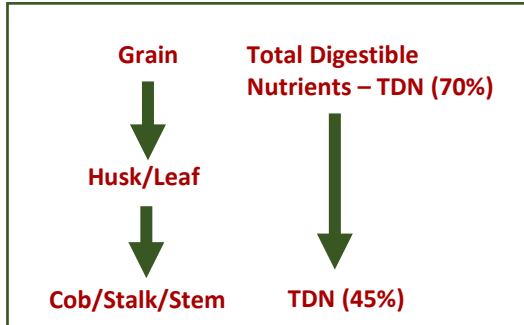


# Helpful Hints to Grazing Crop Residues

## How Cattle Graze Residues



## Determining a Rough Stocking Rate

Stocking rate is directly tied to bushel yield: ↑ Yield = ↑ Rate

- Grazing Days per Acre for a 1200lb Dry Cow?

**Formula: Corn Bushel Yield/3.5**

- Example: 180bu/3.5 = 51 Grazing Days per Acre

## The “When” of Supplementing Feed

**At Recommended Stocking Rates:** Crop Residues are a “Maintenance” Feed – not necessarily a “Gain” Feed

Type of Cattle	Supplement Necessary?
Spring Calving Dry Cows – Good Condition	No – Unless Weather Conditions
Spring Calving Dry Cows - Thin	Yes – Protein and Energy Needed to build Body Condition, maintain pregnancy (1lb/Head/Day*)
Spring Calving First-Calf Heifers	Yes – Protein and Energy Needed to grow heifer and maintain Pregnancy (3lbs/Head/Day*)
Fall Calving Cows	Yes – Protein and Energy Needed to maintain body condition while raising calf (4.5-5lbs/Head/Day*)

\*Starting Point for Supplementation – Always keep an eye on your cattle and increase as necessary to maintain animal health and condition.

## Why You Should Consider It...

### Extends the Grazing Season

- Grazing (\$) <<< Feeding Feed (\$\$\$)
- Residues good “Maintenance Diet”

### Keeps cattle off grass pastures during wet/muddy winter conditions

- Becomes your “Sacrifice pasture”
- Less investment needed in re-seeding/fixing damaged pastures

## Factors Affecting Stocking Rate

### Weather

- Snow – more than 5 inches can lower feed intake
- Ice – extended periods of ice can block grazing

### Whole Field vs. Strip Grazing

- Whole field allows for the best feed to be eaten before weather disruptions (mud, etc) BUT greater trampling can occur
- Strip grazing allows for more uniform intake of nutrient and greater gains – as long as the weather cooperates...

### Overall Field Yield and Harvest Practices

## Potential Challenges...

### Fencing

### Water Source

### Snow or Ice cover

- Ice >>> Snow

### Prussic Acid (Milo/Sorghum only)

### Grain Overload (Acidosis and/or Founder)

- Older, Experienced Cows >> Younger, Inexperienced cows/calves

## Resources:

UNL Corn Stalk Grazing Calculator - <https://beef.unl.edu/learning/cornstalkgrazingcalc.shtml>

Grazing Crop Residues with Beef Cattle Extension Guide - <https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec278.pdf>