



CATTLE CALL *extra!*

NEWS AND INFORMATION
FOR TODAY'S BEEF PRODUCER



October 2006

DO YOU HAVE
ALL THE TOOLS
YOU NEED TO
WIN THE
BATTLE
AGAINST
DROUGHT?

READ ABOUT SOME
EFFECTIVE NUTRITION
STRATEGIES

in the CATTLE CALL *extra!*
in this issue of BEEF.



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NUTRITION STRATEGIES TO TAKE FORAGES FURTHER

Drought places stress on grazing land, cattle, producers, and, ultimately, the producer's bottom line. Cattle producers in many areas are facing difficult times because of a lack of available forage on pastures and hay supplies. The initial stress on the animal is due to poorer nutrition. As forage matures, nutrients decline while the nutritional needs of the gestating animal increase. Producers are faced with their toughest challenge heading into the fall and winter ... a challenge that requires some creative strategies.

GET THE CATTLE TO MOVE FROM WATER TO GRAZING AREAS

During drought conditions the number of water sources usually diminishes and cows tend to congregate around the water that remains. It can be difficult to move cattle away from the water source. But there are effective ways.

"When your cattle are familiar with CRYSTALYX®, which usually takes just a few weeks, you can place the barrels in undergrazed areas and cattle will follow," said Mark Robbins, Research Manager for Ridley Block Operations. "Research has consistently proven cows will spend a significant amount of time grazing within 600 yards of CRYSTALYX®." With the protein, vitamins and trace minerals that cattle consume in CRYSTALYX®, your herd is able to make better use of the forage they're consuming, stretching the grass by getting more total energy into the cow.

GET THE MOST OUT OF CRP FORAGE

The number of counties that have received permission to graze or hay CRP acres is growing. While CRP acres can help relieve forage shortages, there are quality issues. "Because it's not harvested every year, CRP forage is a very low quality forage by nature," Robbins said. "Protein supplementation is the key to increase utilization of CRP forages. This can be especially important for CRP hay as cows are limited in their ability to select plants based on quality."

KEEP KEY NUTRIENTS COMING

Energy is the major nutrient when fighting the effects of drought. However, supplementing "energy" feeds can be costly, time consuming and actually interfere with forage digestion. Typically, forage is your lowest cost energy source for your cow herd. Protein in CRYSTALYX® allows cows to digest more forage and obtain more energy from it. Additionally, the fact that CRYSTALYX® supplements are self-fed means your expenditure on fuel and labor are at an absolute minimum. Other nutrients supplied in CRYSTALYX® include trace minerals and vitamins that become more important through the fall and winter for developing calves prior to weaning.

These nutrition strategies won't make drought or forage shortages go away. But by supplementing with CRYSTALYX®, producers can effectively manage grazing patterns in stressed pastures and get the most out of low quality forage while minimizing labor and fuel costs. It's an important economic edge in countering the effects of drought within all aspects of your operation.





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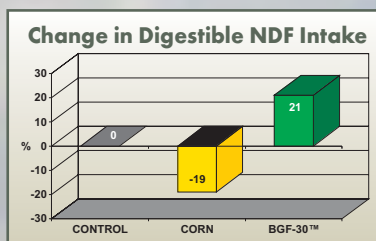
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FEEDING PROTEIN INSTEAD OF GRAIN: GET THE FACTS

Many producers resort to feeding grain when forage is in short supply. While there is a significant amount of energy in grain, it can reduce the digestion of fiber from forage in the diet, thereby reducing overall energy supply. "Grain is digested rather quickly which lowers pH in the rumen," Mark Robbins, Research Manager for Ridley Block Operations said. Lower pH kills off a certain percentage of the microflora that digest fiber in the rumen. A significant amount of forage is still being fed with the grain, and now the cow is not able to utilize that forage as well because fiber digestion has been impaired. As a result, the cow's total energy intake is actually lowered. In extreme conditions when you are out of forage or forage is cost prohibitive, limit-fed high grain programs may need to be considered. These programs can be difficult to manage. Producers considering this option should consult a nutritionist for details on how to best implement these programs.

Dr. Evan Titgemeyer at Kansas State University conducted a research study to determine the effect of different supplementation strategies on intake and digestion of lower-quality prairie hay (Crude Protein = 5.7%, Neutral Detergent Fiber = 72%). To show which supplement option was most effective, Dr. Titgemeyer and his team of researchers conducted an intensive digestion trial with beef steers. They compared free-choice intake and digestibility of a low-quality prairie hay for steers given no supplement, four pounds per day shelled corn, or one pound per day of CRYSTALYX® BGF-30™.

Results of this trial indicate that BGF-30™ increased digestible neutral detergent fiber (NDF) intake 21% compared to the control, whereas the shelled corn treatment reduced digestible NDF intake by 19% compared to the control. BGF-30™ also had the highest dry matter digestibility and highest dry matter intake.



The KSU trial shows that instead of feeding grain as an energy source you can feed a small amount of protein. "Supplementing with CRYSTALYX® BGF-30™ or other CRYSTALYX® protein supplements can greatly increase the utilization of energy that's in your forage," Robbins said. "And that can make a significant difference in herd performance and profitability."

Specific Needs Require a Specific Supplement

BGF-30®	If you need to supply additional protein with low-quality forages, this protein supplement is fortified with extra phosphorus and trace minerals.
Tasco 35-CP	Improve low-quality forage digestion by an additional 10% over blocks with similar crude protein that do not contain Tasco.®
Fescue-lyx	Fortified specific to fescue forages with added B vitamins and 20% protein. Ideal for cattle grazing fescue pastures or feeding on harvested fescue forages.
Hi-Mag Fescue-lyx	If your cattle are grazing fescue forages low in available magnesium or high in potassium, Hi-Mag Fescue-lyx® contains 4.4% magnesium to help prevent winter tetany.
IONO-LYX® B300	Contains Bovatec® for faster growth in beef and dairy heifers, stockers and feeder cattle.
Brigade STEERS FIGHTING™	Stimulate appetite for fast-forward, optimum growth and performance.
Crystal-Phos	Mineral and vitamin delivery has never been this precise, this easy or this cost effective – all without any waste.

For more information on late-season supplementation visit www.crystalux.com or call 1-800-727-2502.

PROTEIN VERSUS GRAIN: HOW TO MAXIMIZE ENERGY INTAKE



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Find out about it
in this issue of BEEF.



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