

Keeping Our Cattle Well Fed

Once when I was moving Herefords with the hired men, I noticed that we were moving them from grasses to crop residue. Interestingly, the forage that cattle graze is very important because if they don't graze, then my dad would have to pay for the hay. We run our cattle on grazed forages year-round. Our cattle graze warm and cool season grasses, cover crops, and crop residue. We graze warm and cool season grasses in the spring and summer. May/June is when we calve; then our cattle stay on grass until the A.I. project in August. After the A.I. project, the cattle will graze grass or cover crops until crop residues are ready. We graze cover crops and crop residue during the winter. Thankfully, our grass gets water from God and his rain. Our cattle normally stay in the same pasture/paddock for anywhere from three days to two weeks unless we are grazing large fields of cover crops or crop residues. Crop residue is what we get when we harvest corn and the stalks are left over. Most people supplement their cattle with protein while on crop residues, but we only provide salt and mineral. We only feed our cattle hay when we are doing projects. Because of the different kinds of forage, we are able to keep our cattle well fed all year long.