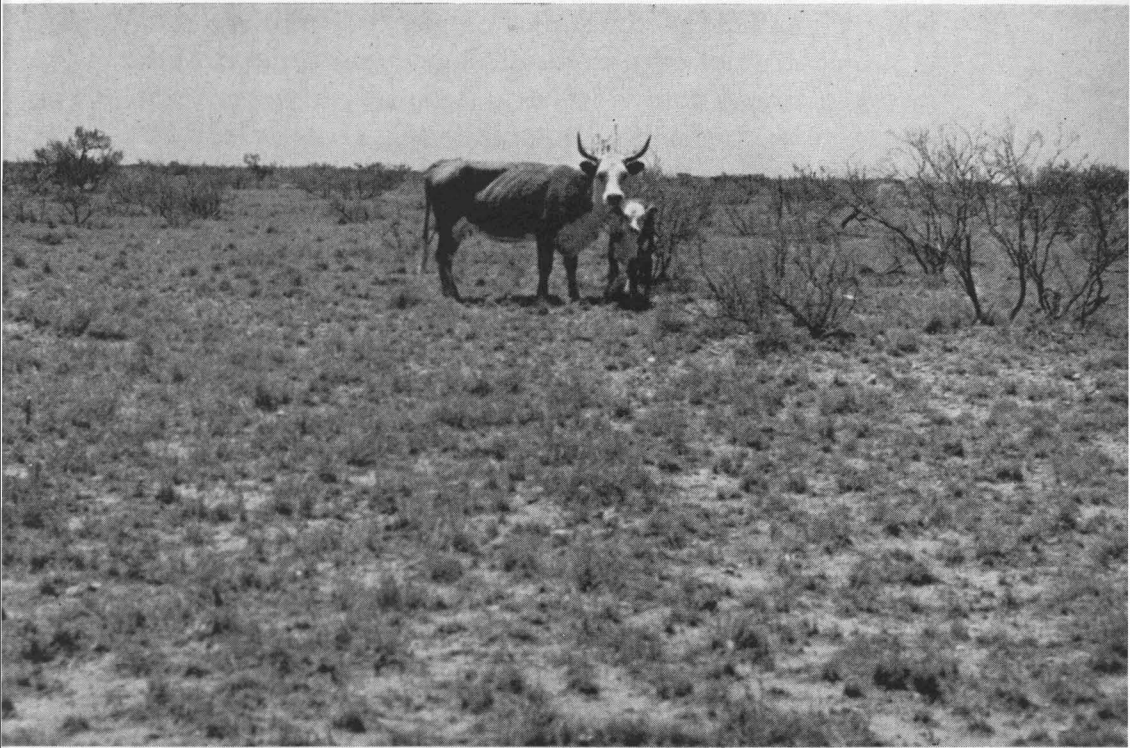


SHORT ON GRASS?



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by

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Emergency beef cattle feeding problems arise when insufficient amounts of good pastures and legumes are not available. This occurs during drouth and prolonged cold weather. Naturally these are not man-made conditions, but man will have to expect them and be prepared. Continued overgrazing eventually means "selling out". Reserve feed supplies underground, above the ground and on the ground is the beef cattleman's best insurance.

There are no substitutes for high quality roughages. Certain low quality roughages may be used however, during emergency periods. To depend entirely on low grade feeds of any kind invites nutritional troubles. Insufficient amounts of essential nutrients often causes failure in getting cows bred, "acorn calves", calves too weak to nurse, dead calves, blindness of calves or cows, calving difficulties and other problems. Beef cattle need proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins and water. No one supplementary feed furnishes all these. A combination of feeds properly proportioned and fed in sufficient amounts will supply cattle needs.

Emergency roughages may prevent starvation temporarily. Eventually their use is paid for through lower calf crops and excessive weight loss. This is expensive when only half as many calves are raised as there are cows, or when young cattle become stunted.

SOME EMERGENCY ROUGHAGES:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Cotton gin trash | 5. Rice straw |
| 2. Cotton burs | 6. Rice hulls |
| 3. Corn cobs | 7. Peanut hulls |
| 4. Corn shucks | 8. Flax straw |

These may be fed IF:

1. Reasonably free of dirt.
2. Finely ground.
3. They do not make up all of the daily roughage.
4. Additional good roughages such as Johnson Grass, Sorghum or Prairie Hay are fed.

They are worth more IF:

1. Moistened with molasses, (12 pounds to the 100 pounds of roughage) or molasses fed free choice.
2. One to two pounds of 41 per cent protein supplement is fed daily.
3. Salt and steamed bone meal are fed free choice.
4. A source of Vitamin A is fed. (Two pounds alfalfa hay or one-half pound alfalfa leaf meal.) Some Vitamin A is supplied through yaupon, winter weeds or any green growth which cattle feed upon.
5. Some grain is fed.

Consider These:

1. Creep feed calves.
2. Wean calves earlier.
3. Cull breeding herd closely.
4. Control external parasites.
5. Treat for internal parasites.

WEANED CALVES NEED:

1. To grow enough to gain a minimum of .75 to 1.0 pound daily to avoid stunting.
2. All the good roughage (hay or silage) they will eat. They cannot make good use of low grade or emergency roughage.
3. More Vitamin A than older cattle. One pound of leafy green alfalfa hay or one-half pound of dehydrated alfalfa meal daily.
4. Salt and steamed bone meal, free choice.
5. At least one pound of 41 per cent protein supplement or its equivalent daily.
6. To be fed according to size or weight.

FEED LIGHT CALVES:

(275 pounds to 400 pounds)

1. Three to five pounds concentrates consisting of 2 parts grain, 1 part 41 per cent protein supplement.
2. All the good roughage they want, including one pound of alfalfa hay. One-half pound dehydrated alfalfa meal may be added to concentrate mixture.

FEED HEAVY CALVES:

(400 pounds to 500 pounds)

1. Five to seven pounds of concentrates consisting of 3 parts grain and 1 part 41 per cent protein supplement.
2. All the good roughage they want including one pound of alfalfa hay. One-half pound dehydrated alfalfa meal may be added to the concentrate mixture.