



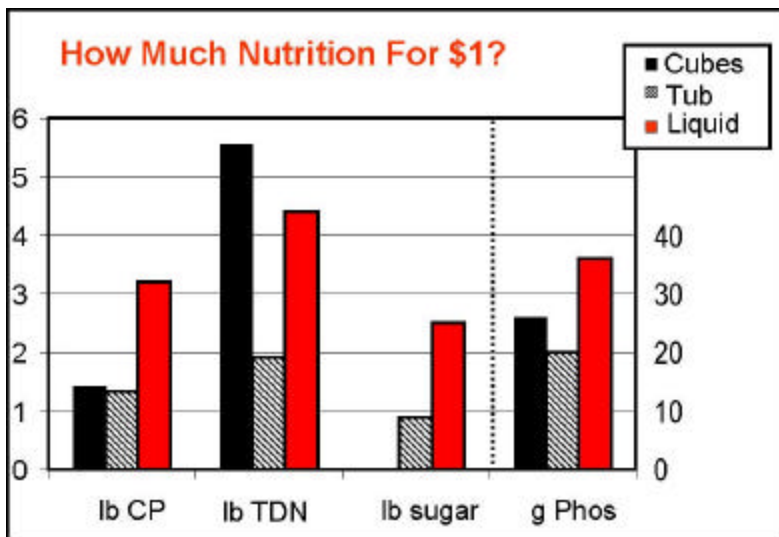
Range Supplementation \$\$'s and Sense

The cost of providing needed nutrition to cattle in grazing situations includes more than just the sticker price per ton. An accurate evaluation needs to include expenses for equipment, time, and travel.

TOTAL COSTS -- 100-head cowherd			
PRODUCT:	CUBES	TUB	LIQUID
lbs. supplement consumed/head/day	1	1	1.5
supplement cost, \$/ton	\$275	\$450	\$250
SUPPLEMENT COST, \$/hd/day	13.8¢	22.5¢	18.8¢
bunks, bin, feeder: costs & depreciation/yr	\$250	-0-	\$50
number of head fed	100	100	100
days supplemented	120	120	120
EQUIPMENT COST, \$/hd/day	2¢	-0-	0.4¢
feeding frequency	daily	weekly	NA
hours per feeding	1	1	NA
labor cost/value, \$/hour	\$8	\$8	\$8
LABOR COST, \$/hd/day	8¢	1.1¢	-0-
miles per round trip to cattle	20	20	20
mileage rate, \$/mile	40¢	40¢	40¢
TRANSPORTATION COST, \$/hd/day	8¢	1.1¢	-0-
TOTAL COSTS: \$/head/day	\$.318	\$.247	\$.192
\$/group/day	\$31.80	\$24.70	\$19.20
\$/group/period	\$3816	\$2964	\$2304

Our first goal in cowherd supplementation typically is to enhance forage utilization. The primary need in these diets is for rumen-degradable protein. As a supplement meets the nitrogen needs of the microbes, ruminal fermentation is stimulated. As a result, there is a greater energy yield from forage, and a dramatic increase in feed intake. Soluble carbohydrates can further stimulate rumen activity, as will a supplemental supply of any minerals that the microbes are lacking (exception: high levels of starch inhibit fiber digestion). It stands to reason, then, that the value of a supplement should be related to its ability to meet these needs, as well as just out-of-pocket costs. The following table shows how the above feeding options stack up nutritionally.

<i>Comparison based on feeding example shown above...</i>			
	CUBES	TUB	LIQUID
% crude protein (CP)	20	30	40
daily CP supply, lbs	.2	.3	.6
\$/pound of CP	\$.70	\$.75	\$.31
% sugar	0	20	30
daily sugar supply, lbs	0	.2	.45



Expressed another way, this chart illustrates the varying levels of key nutrients supplied by \$1 worth of each of these supplements (again, based on the prices used in the first table). Your cattle get more of what they need out of every dollar spent on liquid supplements.

We often utilize poor quality forages to feed beef cows. Yet it is still critical to meet their nutritional needs; inadequate nutrition (practically monitored via body condition) costs the operation in terms of lighter weaning weights, smaller calf crops, and higher vet bills. Supplements need to fill the nutrient gap!

Example: late gestation, 1200 lb cow, 6% CP hay						
		Requirement (lb)	Provided by hay (lb)	Required from supplement (lb)		
crude protein/head/day:		1.7	1.3	.4		
CUBES		TUB		LIQUID		
lb. needed	cost	lb. needed*	cost	lb. needed	cost	
2	\$.28	1.3	\$.30	1	\$.125	

Example: early lactation (high milk potential), 1200 lb cow, 10% CP hay						
		Requirement (lb)	Provided by hay (lb)	Required from supplement (lb)		
crude protein/head/day:		3.1	2.4	.7		
CUBES		TUB		LIQUID		
lb. needed	cost	lb. needed*	cost	lb. needed	cost	
3.5	\$.49	2.3	\$.52	1.75	\$.22	

*Manufacturers of many blocks indicate maximum expected intakes less than these amounts. In other words, the cattle could not consume the level of protein needed.

◆ Any way you look at it, liquid supplements have the potential to offer your cows more for your supplement dollar. Value, nutrition, convenience . . . and with QLF you can also count on quality, service, and flexibility. A full line of products, that range from 18 to 40% protein, and include options with added fat, varied vitamin and mineral levels and ionophore (i.e., for replacement heifers), can precisely meet the needs of any operation.