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Cooperative Extension Program

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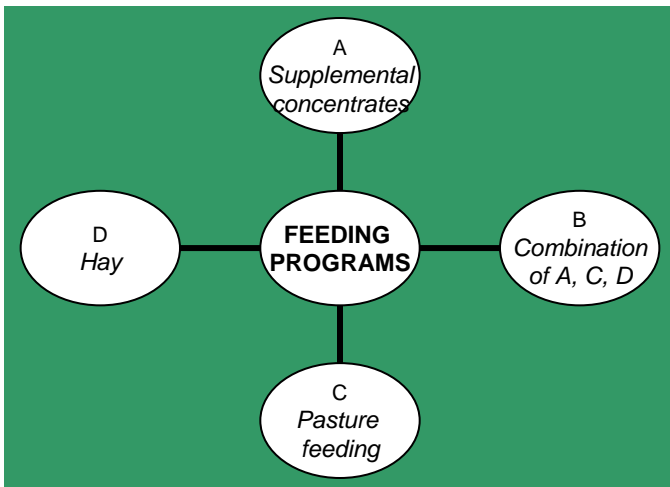
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REF: Food Safety

Pasture Feeding is Safe and Relatively Low Cost: A Feeding Program for Limited Resource Cattle Producers

R. Mobley, K. Sarjeant, S. William and G. Queeley ¹

The feeding programs used by farmers:



The preferred feeding program among farmers is "B" -- **Combination method**.

Concentrates?

These are commercially made animal feeds in the form of grains or pellets.

Facts about Supplemental Concentrates Feed

1. May contain high quality protein.
2. Some offer growth hormones containing low levels of antibiotics or parasiticides.

Concerns?

1. Low levels of antibiotics or parasiticides may increase the resistance of target organisms and eventually affect overall effectiveness.
2. Low in essential fiber.
3. Residuals from these products may enter the soil and water when eliminated from the animals body through feces and urine.
4. Consumer acceptance of cattle products raised on artificial supplement.
5. Supplemental concentrates are expensive.



Pasture-fed only



Combine feeding

Studies have shown no significant difference in weight gain between supplemental-fed and pasture-fed cattle within a six-month period (see Table 1).

Table 1: Initial and final weight

Treatment	Initial wt. (lbs) 6/26/02	Final wt. (lbs) 12/09/02
Non-medicated supplement	761	1002
Medicated supplement	768	936
Pasture-grazed only	754	902

What does this mean?

1. Low income and small producers can feed their herds to market weight on high quality pasture with a good rotational grazing strategy at relatively low cost.
2. Producers should practice prudent use of medicated feed that is environmentally friendly and limits food safety risks.

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