**MANAGEMENT GOALS:**
- Calf weaning rate has the greatest impact on profitability
- 95% fall pregnancy rate
- 80% cows calving within 30 days
- Spend no more than $50 per cow purchased feed

**OUR DECISION PROCESS**
First – Determine quantity of available forage versus the expected number of cattle and time (conservative grazing).

Can a cow eat all she wants every day?
Second – What is the grazeable forage quality?
   - Green vegetation available?
     - Green = higher protein
     - Brown = lower protein

Third – What are the cow’s requirements?
Production stage; dry, pregnant, lactating, body condition?
   - Also age, climatic, activity stressors
   - Sort most nutritionally stressed cows

**WHAT TO SUPPLEMENT?**
Characteristics of Strategic Low Cost Supplementation
- Lower labor
- Biologically potent supplemental nutrients
- Improves animal productivity
- Base of Strategic Low Cost Supplementation is:
  1. Adequate forage
  2. Mineral nutrition; self-fed mineral available year round ($0.025/d for 365 d@$750/ton)
  3. Diet – if it is brown/dormant then it is less than 7% CP - expected responses to protein supplement increase digestibility & intake

**DEVELOPING STRATEGY - PROTEIN**

**HOW MUCH PROTEIN TO FEED?**
5 quantities
- NM - strategic low cost supplementation
- Minute – 2 lb/d (self fed)
- Minimum – 5 lb/d (fed 1 time/wk at 3.5 lb/ hd)
- Moderate – 1 lb/d (fed 2 to 3 times/wk)
- Maximum – 2 lb/d (fed 2 to 3 times/wk)
- Super Maximum – 2 lb/d (fed 2 to 3 times/wk)

**MINUTE**
50% NMSU CORONA RANCH Range Mineral
40% 2 bypass proteins (fish & feather meal mixed 50:50 or 100% fish meal) high bypass protein sources
Self fed, target .2 lb per day ($0.05 to $0.08 per head/d) Low labor, feed with low nutritional stress, very efficient

**MINIMUM**
36% crude protein (CP) supplement (cottonseed base)
65% rumen degradable
6% to 10% CP equivalents from urea
Hand fed, (cubes) target .5 lb/head per day ($0.06-0.10/d) fed

**SUMMARY**
- Maintain forage and animal balance
- Ground nutritional management with effective mineral program

**TAKE HOME MESSAGE:**
- Strategic supplementation is designed to improve cow nutritional status.
- Based on a timely approach.
- Using the most biologically effective form of supplement.
- Purpose is to be efficient, supplement cows with exactly what is needed, achieve production goals while minimizing feed costs.