

Utilizing Soybean Residue

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Soybean residue can be used in a short term situation as an alternative feed for dry and moderate conditioned beef cattle. It is important to note that separating dry cows by age or body condition will enhance your ability to manage this resource properly. This residue, although not especially palatable or loaded with nutrients, can be used as a supplemental feed source. Typical composition of soybean residue is 42% TDN, 0.43 Mcal NEm/lb, and 5% CP. This feed source can be either grazed or baled depending on various management practices.

Grazed soybean stubble can be used as a resource for approximately 30-45 days depending on volume and quality of residue. Soybean stubble or residue will not meet the protein needs of a dry cow and if fed for long periods would require supplementation of some other protein source. It is important to note that in either the grazing scenario or big bale usage, producers should not expect animals to consume this feed if animals are given another choice. This feed is dry and not extremely palatable, therefore animals need to be given only one choice - soybean residue. Unlike cornstalks, soybean residue will have greater palatability if baled with reasonable amounts of moisture and should be baled directly behind the harvest machine as soon as possible. It is important to note that

raking soybeans into larger windrows could ultimately be counterproductive due to pod and leaf loss. One way to improve feed quality and consumption is by ammoniating the bales before feeding. If you would like more information regarding ammoniation contact your regional livestock educator.