

## Supplementing Cows on Corn Stalks

Cows in the third trimester of gestation have gradually increasing nutrient requirements. Scoring cows on body condition is a good way to monitor whether or not the cows are on track to calve and re-breed efficiently. A body condition score of 5.5 is generally considered optimum for cows to calve successfully, start lactation and breed back promptly.

According to National Research Council (NRC) recommendations, in order for a cow to improve one body condition score (BCS) on a scale of one to ten, it is necessary for her to gain 150 lbs.

The following table shows the effect of using Ore-Bac<sup>®</sup> as a supplement for cows grazing average corn stalks. (1100 pound cows; third trimester)

|                                    | <b>Recommended Daily Intake (NRC)</b> | <b>24 lbs Corn Stalks</b> | <b>Corn Stalks + 1.5 lb Ore-Bac<sup>®</sup></b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Metabolizable Protein, maintenance | 0.92 lbs                              | 0.92 lbs                  | 0.92 lbs  |
| Metabolizable Protein, gestation   | 0.33 lbs                              | 0.08* lbs                 | 0.35 lbs  |
| Net Energy, maintenance            | 8.54 Mcal                             | 8.54 Mcal                 | 8.54 Mcal                                       |
| Net Energy, gestation              | 3.44 Mcal                             | 3.35* Mcal                | 3.95 Mcal                                       |
| Phosphorus, maintenance            | 13.00 g                               | 13.00 g                   | 40.00 g   |
| Phosphorus, gestation              | 5.00 g                                | 3.00* g                   | 9.00 g  |

\*Less than recommended: cows short in these nutrients may produce colostrum with poor antibody quality, weak calves (especially when the cow's ration is low in protein), calving difficulty, cleaning problems and late or no breed back.

- If cows are supplemented with Ore-Bac<sup>®</sup> for the entire 90 day third trimester, the calculated added energy intake should theoretically allow them to gain the weight needed to improve body condition score by more than one score.
- After weaning, properly supplemented cows will exhibit some compensatory gain to improve body condition.

