**Beef Cow Supplement Decision Guide***

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Does each cow have all she can eat in the pasture?

**YES**
Forage supply is adequate

**NO**
- Forage supply is inadequate; energy deficient
- Reduce the forage needs of herd by lowering stocking rate and/or feeding supplement

What color is the forage?

**BROWN**
- Protein is likely <7% and limiting forage intake and digestion

Are cows in adequate body condition (i.e., ≥4.5)?

**YES**
- Supplement with ≥32% CP
  - 0.1 to 0.3% BW/day
  - improve rumen efficiency
  - price $/lb CP

**NO**
- Supplement with 28-32% CP
  - 0.25 to 0.40% BW/day
  - improve rumen efficiency
  - provide extra energy
  - consider $/lb CP and $/lb TDN

**GREEN**
- Supplement energy with <20% CP
  - 0.4 to 0.8% BW/day
  - Protein is sufficient
  - Energy is sufficient
  - Price $/lb TDN

What color is the forage?

**GREEN**
- Supplement energy with <20% CP
  - 0.4 to 0.8% BW/day
  - Protein is sufficient
  - Energy is deficient
  - Price $/lb TDN

*This decision tree is a general guide and is not as accurate as measuring actual forage quality and quantity to develop a strategic supplementation program for a specific class of cattle.