

# Creep Feeding Logic

**MT. VERNON, MO.**

In some ways, creep feeding this year may seem foolish with the high price of feed. However, when you put the pros and cons to it the pros likely will win.

Buyers are willing to pay for more weight and flesh this year which favors creep feeding. Young cattle are efficient converters of supplemental feeds, especially when feed quantity and quality are limited. Creep feed is more efficiently used when intake is limited. This can be done with hand feeding or including a limiter in it.

A good bit of research data supports that

creep feeding can improve quality grade. This could be especially helpful if the cattle could end up in a premium Choice, niche market.

Creep feed helps spare the pasture and hay. This sparing effect is important this year as everyone's pasture is burned up and hay supply is short.

If you do nothing more than fix a hay creep area for fall born calves, that's a start. Put the very best hay you have in that area for the calves. Alfalfa is an excellent choice for a hay creep. Δ



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