

## **RANGELAND TUBS**

### ***Supplementing Crop Residues***

With forage supplies tight and expensive in much of our market, cow/calf producers are looking for ways to alleviate feeding hay, especially early in the winter. Grazing crop residues when available is a strategic way to provide forage and cow comfort while saving hay supplies for closer to calving time. Cornstalks are the most common but milo stubble, soybean stubble and wheat pastures are also options in some areas. Here are a few things to consider when grazing residues like cornstalks: Cornstalk feeding quality decreases significantly over the grazing period. Cows will selectively graze the forage portion that has the best digestibility first, like the husks, cobs and leaves. These tend to have acceptable energy levels for maintenance but are low in protein, minerals and vitamins. As the grazing period progresses then the cows will begin to work on the stems and stalks which are lower energy, lower digestibility and devoid of mineral and vitamin content.

Rangeland tubs are the convenient product of choice for supplementing crop residues. Tubs help in two ways. First, the protein, mineral and vitamin levels solve the nutritional differences in the cornstalks. An additional benefit comes from the increase in rumen function from protein supplementation. The protein in Rangeland tubs improves the number and efficiency of the rumen microorganisms. Therefore, cows on low quality forage will actually have higher intakes of that forage AND better digestibility. Net effect for the cows is that more energy is available for maintenance and fetal growth. Rangeland tubs are excellent for cornstalks grazing. We recommend Rangeland 30-13 for cornstalks grazing.