

Using Cow Body Condition Score to Develop a Feeding Program

A mature cow weighs 1,200 lb and is in BCS 4 at weaning/pregnancy testing in mid-October. Her expected calving date is the 1st of February (104 days to calving). We want her to be in BCS 5 at calving. The diet being supplied to her is:

Grazing crested wheatgrass, 0.53 Mcal/lb NE_m , 0.28 Mcal/lb NE_g
2 lb/day of a 20% CP supplement, 0.84 Mcal/lb NE_m , 0.53 Mcal/lb NE_g

Assume that the forage will allow her to eat 2.0% BW in forage (use her average total BW with the fetus to determine intake). Use the worksheet to determine whether or not she can make BCS 5 by calving. (Use your calculations to support your answer.)