



# Beef Nutrition Programs





# Beef Nutrition Programs

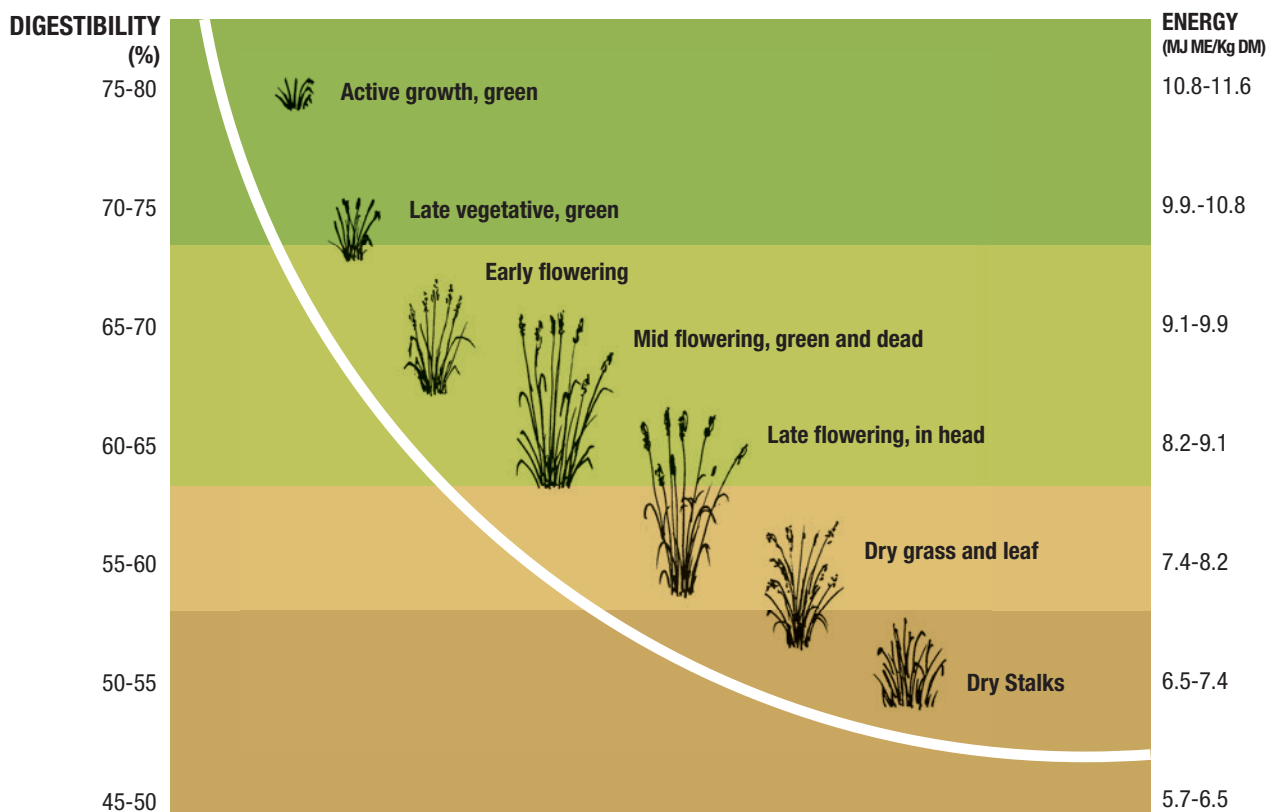
## Pasture and Beef Cattle

Most of the beef cattle in Australia are raised and grown on pasture. The potential productivity of the beef herd is reflected by the lifecycle of pasture.

All grasses have one common characteristic - they change in nutrient composition as they mature. The nutrient rate of soil is impacted by many things, including latitude, temperature, sunlight exposure and fertility. From the perspective of grazing cattle, as plants mature, they are harder to digest and have less nutrients. A lower digestibility means they eat less, resulting in a reduced performance compared to when grazing a younger pasture.

The figure below shows the decreasing digestibility and energy as the plant grows from a young active stage through flowering, seeding and maturity.

## Pasture Lifecycle













# Beef Nutrition Programs

From pasture-raised breeder herds through to intensively-fed growers, attention to the animal's nutrient requirements and how those nutrients are delivered is essential. Matching the product offered to the animal's needs in order to supply the right amount and blend of nutrients requires a good knowledge of both the products and the livestock being supplemented.

The Performance Feeds Beef Nutrition Programs are designed to suit any production system in any part of the country. Delivering quality nutrients in a cost-effective manner and backing this up with support from experienced people makes for a great program and recipe for success.

## Matching supplement to pasture production

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
	Autumn			Winter			Spring			Summer		
NORTHERN REGIONS												
Greatest Need	Vitamins / Minerals			Protein / Energy			Protein / Energy and Vitamin / Minerals			Vitamins / Minerals		
Forage Type	High growth to maturity			Dry & Dormant			Dry and Dormant			High growth		
Product Fit												
SOUTHERN REGIONS												
Greatest Need	Protein / Energy and Vitamin / Minerals			Vitamins / Minerals			Energy and Vitamin / Minerals			Protein / Energy		
Forage Type	Dry & Dormant			High growth			High growth			Dry & Dormant		
Product Fit												





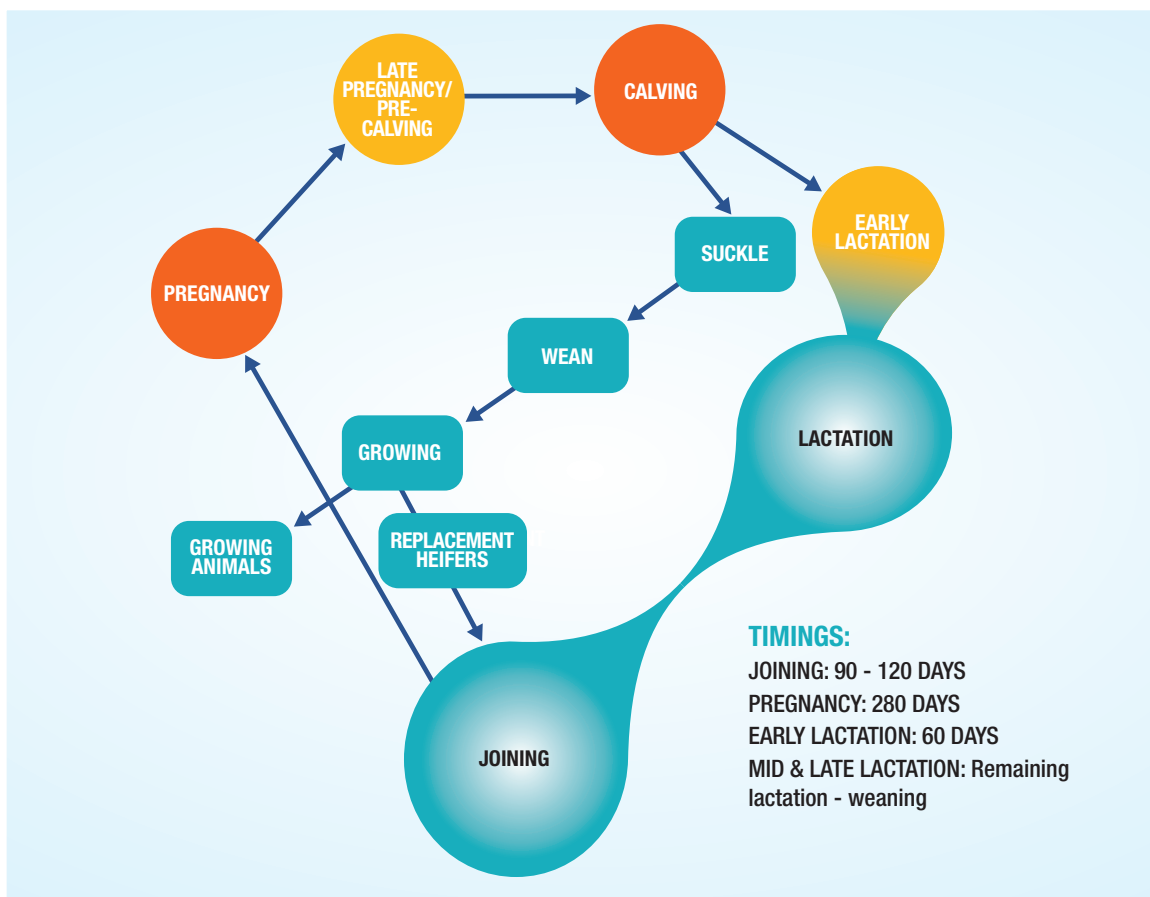
# Beef Nutrition Programs

## Critical Production Phases

Even before a calf is born, its potential to reach genetic optimum has been affected by nutrition. Advancing the performance of a cattle herd through breeding is important for progress, but it is also slow. Good nutrition management improves productivity, supports the health and ultimately the welfare of the animal.

Nutrition is more than protein and energy. Minerals, vitamins and a big list of other complex compounds get involved in keeping animals alive and healthy. How the nutrition of beef cattle is managed through supplementation is as important as what the supplement is. The timing of delivery, pasture condition and needs of the animal all should be considered.

## Beef Cattle Critical Production Periods



## Benefits of Supplementing during the Critical Production Phases

There are huge benefits of ensuring that you have matched the right nutrition with the right pasture at the right time of an animal's production. The overall benefits of year-round nutrition supplementation include:

- Increases in weight gain and condition
- Increases in egg quality
- Increases in fertility and conception rate
- Increases in colostrum quality
- Increases in calf survival rate
- Increases in animal development.

