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## COMBINE CORN EARLY TO GET SOME STALKS

Most of us soon will have only a little pasture left. But your cows will still be out there trying to get what little they can. You know the cows and calves can't be doing very well unless you also are feeding them, but what also is this grazing doing to your pasture?

Pastures put up with a lot of stress during grazing. As we approach winter, these plants need time to recover and to winterize. Even if they have received plenty of rain this year and are growing well, severe grazing now will weaken plants as they go into winter. Next spring they will green-up later, early growth will be slow, and they'll compete poorly with weeds.

Maybe the best way to get some rest for these pastures is to harvest some corn a little early and then move the cows to stalks. Early stalks usually have more protein and energy than late stalks so they can put some condition on your cows while also relieving your pastures. And after the growing season is completely over you can graze any remaining growth on your pastures without causing much stress.

Since you need a little time to set up fences and water tanks on stalk fields anyway, maybe you should start corn harvest a little early this year. It might lessen the hectic pace you often feel later when you want to spend time in the combine harvesting crops as well as setting up stalk grazing.

Moving to stalks early is good for both your animals and your pastures. If you can work it out, take the time to make the change.

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