How Cornstalks Can Bring Value Back to Nebraska

KLOPFENSTEIN

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**Corn Cows and Residue**

- 2 million beef cows
- 2.5 million cattle on feed

- 10.3 million acres of corn
  - 42 million tons of residue produced
  - 2.8 million tons of residue needed for beef cattle

**Changes Challenges and Opportunities**

- Ethanol Industry
  - NE is #2 in nation (24 plants)
  - Uses 35% of corn
  - ↑ Corn price
  - Pasture → Corn
  - Supply and price of forage
  - Abundance of corn residue

**Consequences of Grazing?**

- Subsequent Crop Yield
- Soil
- Water

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Grazing Improves Yield

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soybeans</th>
<th>Corn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ungrazed</td>
<td>Grazed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grain Yields After Stover Removal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tillage</th>
<th>Stover removal (%)</th>
<th>Grain yield (Bu/a)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disk</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>201.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>207.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
<td>212.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No tillage</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>180.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>205.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>202.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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