In periods of extreme drought, some ranches are forced to consider selling more cows than normal to reduce forage use and stretch limited forage and/or water supplies. If grain is relatively inexpensive, it may be beneficial to consider confined feeding of cull cows for 30 to 60 days before marketing. Although this requires additional feed, the payoff may be quite high.

Feeding some concentrate feed (with minimal hay) to cull cows may significantly enhance the value of those cull cows, especially if they are thin because of drought-related pasture conditions. In addition to having more pounds to sell, feeding cull cows may increase their price because of increased dressing percent or an increase in quality grade.