



# Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"

Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	<b>June 6, 2026</b>			
<b>Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)</b>	\$456.21	\$355.52	\$186.70	\$756.57
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	256.52	256.80	258.73	239.34
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	369.46	380.54	385.25	309.85
Against this Week's Marketing	338.44	350.53	377.18	260.85
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	376.90	400.66	420.57	425.65
Against this Week's Marketing	392.95	404.12	389.49	444.74
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	3,536.30	3,651.07	3,709.91	3,109.28
Against this Week's Marketing	3,303.02	3,413.23	3,619.56	2,733.17
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	239.75	247.53	251.52	210.80
Against this Week's Marketing	223.93	231.41	245.39	185.30
<b>Packer Margin (\$ / head)</b>	<b>(\$237.74)</b>	<b>(\$291.75)</b>	<b>(\$298.39)</b>	<b>(\$276.34)</b>
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	256.52	256.80	258.73	239.34
Beef Cutout <sup>1</sup> (\$ / cwt)	393.97	394.37	391.12	367.51
Drop Credit <sup>2</sup> (\$/hd)	230.82	231.30	225.35	170.53
	<b>June 6, 2026</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Month Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>Cattle Slaughter</b>	533,000	448,000	525,175	581,299
Steer & Heifer	437,593	367,808	428,018	476,084
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>66.2%</b>	<b>77.0%</b>	<b>80.7%</b>
Cows	87,412	73,472	88,229	95,914
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>49.0%</b>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>63.9%</b>
<b>Beef Production</b>	479.1	402.5	473.7	500.8
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
<b>Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>900</b>	904	863
<b>Relative Feeding Cost</b> (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	80.97%	N/A	80.48%	77.23%
Feed	11.41%	11.74%	11.62%	15.57%
<b>Annual Projections - May 12, 2026</b>	<b>2026*</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Cow-Calf Margin<sup>3</sup>(\$ / cow)</b>	<b>1142.00</b>	897.00	523.50	343.45
Estimated annual revenue - annual variable costs				
<b>Feedlot Margin (\$ / head)</b>	<b>126.50</b>	497.56	114.00	213.97
<b>Packer Margin (\$ / head)</b>	<b>(\$201.00)</b>	<b>(\$137.90)</b>	<b>(\$75)</b>	98.08

<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive Cutout which includes Prime, Choice, Select grade, branded, & ungraded cattle. Starting Jan. 1, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Based on Sterling Marketing revenue and cost of production projections.



"The Sterling Difference"

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