



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"
Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	August 9, 2025			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	\$723.64	\$787.84	\$737.64	\$241.26
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	242.89	244.41	238.93	192.06
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	348.24	348.49	327.83	249.20
Against this Week's Marketing	270.15	265.11	262.26	235.02
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement		372.41	401.07	385.63
Against this Week's Marketing	460.59	456.73	449.62	391.11
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	3,392.62	3,370.85	3,231.20	2,581.82
Against this Week's Marketing	2,820.23	2,775.01	2,747.06	2,447.58
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	230.01	228.53	219.06	175.04
Against this Week's Marketing	191.20	188.14	186.24	174.83
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$339.36)	(\$316.31)	\$35.46	(\$142.17)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	242.89	244.41	238.93	192.06
Beef Cutout¹ (\$ / cwt)	367.72	364.54	387.54	314.44
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	183.12	181.03	177.68	171.90
	August 9, 2025	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	536,000	535,000	571,565	587,582
Steer & Heifer	440,056	439,235	471,541	480,054
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	74.6%	74.5%	80.0%	82.3%
Cows	87,368	87,205	92,022	97,539
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	58.7%	58.6%	61.9%	66.9%
Beef Production (federally inspected, mil. lbs.)	462.7	462.0	494.2	497.9
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	865	865	866	849
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	79.55%	80.12%	78.63%	74.80%
Feed	0.00%	13.42%	14.60%	15.76%
Annual Projections - August 11, 2025	2025*	2024	2023	2022
Cow-Calf Margin³ (\$ / cow)	673.00	404.79	320.65	74.52
Estimated annual revenue - annual variable costs				
Feedlot Margin (\$ / head)	510.00	114.00	213.97	96.56
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(226.50)	(75.43)	98.08	95.75

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

³ Based on Sterling Marketing revenue and cost of production projections.



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