



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"

Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	April 5, 2025			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	\$507.38	\$558.29	\$366.40	(\$26.10)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	211.85	212.96	201.21	186.50
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	294.02	291.91	274.15	239.97
Against this Week's Marketing	247.88	245.41	249.20	255.09
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	446.57	444.13	453.88	423.01
Against this Week's Marketing	404.32	387.87	385.63	415.77
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	3,001.21	2,981.43	2,846.08	2,544.45
Against this Week's Marketing	2,590.23	2,552.97	2,581.82	2,637.10
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	203.47	202.13	192.95	172.51
Against this Week's Marketing	175.61	173.08	175.04	188.36
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$172.47)	(\$229.33)	(\$126.18)	(\$121.82)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	211.85	212.96	201.21	186.50
Beef Cutout ¹ (\$ / cwt)	336.28	330.77	317.34	304.50
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	181.12	177.99	181.48	178.34
	April 5, 2025	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	591,000	609,000	579,267	614,045
Steer & Heifer	476,346	490,854	466,310	494,306
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	81.7%	84.2%	80.0%	84.8%
Cows	105,198	108,402	104,268	109,914
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	74.0%	76.3%	71.6%	75.4%
Beef Production	513.2	528.6	501.7	519.3
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	870	870	868	847
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	75.92%	75.88%	74.65%	73.09%
Feed	17.24%	17.40%	17.58%	16.04%
Annual Projections - April 4, 2025	2025*	2024	2023	2022
Cow-Calf Margin³(\$ / cow)	590.00	435.82	334.87	74.52
Estimated annual revenue - annual variable costs				
Feedlot Margin (\$ / head)	254.56	114.00	213.97	96.56
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(126.00)	(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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