



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"

Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	March 8, 2025			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	\$366.40	\$198.44	\$341.05	(\$18.80)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	201.21	197.88	207.25	185.26
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	274.15	280.93	271.00	250.39
Against this Week's Marketing	249.20	263.40	260.00	248.91
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	453.88	454.09	470.34	418.13
Against this Week's Marketing	385.63	396.40	411.84	440.98
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	2,846.08	2,901.78	2,837.20	2,625.10
Against this Week's Marketing	2,581.82	2,709.66	2,697.61	2,612.44
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	192.95	196.73	192.35	177.97
Against this Week's Marketing	175.04	183.71	182.89	186.60
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$126.27)	(\$154.46)	(\$191.13)	(\$48.68)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	201.21	197.88	207.25	185.26
Beef Cutout ¹ (\$ / cwt)	317.34	317.18	329.68	303.85
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	181.39	183.58	179.65	174.84
	March 8, 2025	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	578,000	566,000	582,606	583,995
Steer & Heifer	475,116	465,252	469,580	461,940
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	81.5%	79.8%	80.5%	79.2%
Cows	97,104	95,088	104,869	113,879
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	66.6%	65.3%	72.0%	78.2%
Beef Production	504.9	494.4	508.6	490.5
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	876	876	875	842
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	74.65%	75.03%	74.03%	73.92%
Feed	17.58%	16.76%	17.44%	16.01%
Annual Projections - Feb. 19, 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)	199.00	114.00	213.97	96.56
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(128.00)	(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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