



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"

Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	December 7, 2024			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	\$204.15	\$130.42	\$106.33	(\$133.47)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	190.90	190.03	186.35	169.47
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	263.29	253.92	260.85	219.16
Against this Week's Marketing	251.86	259.44	257.07	218.63
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	442.30	442.30	444.74	418.49
Against this Week's Marketing	404.53	403.44	392.92	580.63
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	2,747.98	2,671.20	2,733.17	2,358.46
Against this Week's Marketing	2,611.63	2,672.52	2,642.33	2,506.05
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	186.30	181.10	185.30	159.90
Against this Week's Marketing	177.06	181.19	179.14	179.00
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$81.14)	(\$91.33)	(\$57.08)	(\$105.83)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	190.90	190.03	186.35	169.47
Beef Cutout¹ (\$ / cwt)	308.71	302.00	311.45	277.93
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	176.38	174.24	171.58	182.58
	December 7, 2024	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	614,000	536,000	620,666	638,200
Steer & Heifer	497,954	434,696	499,015	495,243
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	85.4%	74.6%	85.6%	84.6%
Cows	105,608	92,192	111,720	132,107
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	72.5%	63.3%	76.7%	90.7%
Beef Production	531.5	464.2	538.6	538.4
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	868	868	870	845
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	74.25%	73.67%	73.97%	72.02%
Feed	16.94%	16.55%	16.83%	16.70%
Annual Projections - Dec. 10, 2024	2025*	2024*	2023	2022
Cow-Calf Margin³(\$ / cow)	663.00	714.00	440.00	168.43
Estimated annual revenue - annual variable costs				
Feedlot Margin (\$ / head)	196.00	156.85	157.93	47.55
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(90.00)	(65.00)	(89.89)	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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"The Sterling Difference"

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