



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"

Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	December 6, 2025			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	\$109.82	(\$15.42)	\$413.29	\$155.03
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	221.06	209.78	228.42	190.90
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	337.49	314.58	338.44	263.29
Against this Week's Marketing	312.65	306.48	282.72	248.98
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	403.10	409.60	392.95	442.30
Against this Week's Marketing	438.04	453.68	470.95	455.91
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	3,305.69	3,125.24	3,303.02	2,747.98
Against this Week's Marketing	3,144.93	3,110.50	2,933.76	2,652.44
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	224.11	211.88	223.93	186.30
Against this Week's Marketing	213.22	210.88	198.90	179.83
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	\$161.36	\$91.75	(\$43.32)	(\$96.89)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	221.06	209.78	228.42	190.90
Beef Cutout ¹ (\$ / cwt)	366.40	370.27	377.86	308.71
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	183.92	183.97	181.39	175.48
	December 6, 2025	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	600,000	498,000	568,948	614,183
Steer & Heifer	480,600	398,898	457,434	496,260
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	81.5%	67.6%	77.6%	85.1%
Cows	108,000	89,640	100,704	109,325
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	72.0%	59.8%	67.1%	75.0%
Beef Production	534.6	442.9	506.3	532.5
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	893	892	890	869
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	79.12%	78.01%	79.41%	74.25%
Feed	12.82%	13.17%	13.39%	16.68%
Annual Projections - November 17, 2025	2026*	2025*	2024	2023
Cow-Calf Margin ³(\$ / cow)	1068.00	896.00	404.79	320.65
Estimated annual revenue - annual variable costs				
Feedlot Margin (\$ / head)	113.37	489.18	114.00	213.97
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$154.87)	(\$146.71)	(\$75)	98.08

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.



"The Sterling Difference"

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