



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"

Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	March 15, 2025			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	\$419.93	\$366.40	\$278.73	\$29.33
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	205.70	201.21	202.94	187.82
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	286.32	274.15	268.55	252.40
Against this Week's Marketing	251.49	249.20	260.33	249.48
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	444.54	453.88	477.45	425.04
Against this Week's Marketing	376.90	385.63	411.23	424.48
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	2,936.09	2,846.08	2,824.45	2,648.74
Against this Week's Marketing	2,591.65	2,581.82	2,699.70	2,600.15
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	199.06	192.95	191.49	179.58
Against this Week's Marketing	175.70	175.04	183.03	185.73
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$137.78)	(\$126.27)	(\$198.44)	(\$28.51)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	205.70	201.21	202.94	187.82
Beef Cutout¹ (\$ / cwt)	321.67	317.34	324.40	308.78
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	178.65	181.39	181.45	176.73
	March 15, 2025	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	587,000	578,000	562,260	597,391
Steer & Heifer	482,514	475,116	452,619	477,315
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	82.8%	81.5%	77.6%	81.9%
Cows	98,616	97,104	101,769	111,115
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	67.7%	66.6%	69.9%	76.3%
Beef Production	511.9	504.9	491.9	504.9
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	874	876	877	847
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	75.58%	74.65%	73.69%	73.85%
Feed	17.15%	17.58%	17.69%	16.35%
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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