



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"

Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	August 8, 2026			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	(\$48.14)	\$34.93	\$276.75	\$723.64
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	235.23	233.17	248.01	242.89
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	353.10	349.33	378.65	348.24
Against this Week's Marketing	364.11	350.50	345.77	270.15
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	417.12	418.74	416.30	395.59
Against this Week's Marketing	403.91	397.21	399.85	460.59
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	3,444.08	3,414.99	3,651.69	3,392.62
Against this Week's Marketing	3,520.36	3,402.45	3,366.57	2,820.23
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	233.50	231.52	247.57	230.01
Against this Week's Marketing	238.67	230.67	228.24	191.20
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$171.75)	(\$117.62)	(\$304.83)	(\$335.21)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	235.23	233.17	248.01	242.89
Beef Cutout ¹ (\$ / cwt)	364.68	365.81	392.24	367.72
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	217.70	220.94	219.83	182.19
	August 8, 2026	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	509,000	512,000	525,891	536,811
Steer & Heifer	417,380	419,840	431,231	438,038
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	78.7%	79.2%	81.3%	74.3%
Cows	85,512	86,016	87,298	89,647
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	57.0%	57.3%	58.2%	59.8%
Beef Production	451.0	453.3	467.7	463.6
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	888	887	884	866
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	79.46%	79.28%	80.36%	79.55%
Feed	11.85%	12.31%	12.37%	14.03%
Annual Projections - July 20, 2026	2026*	2025	2024	2023
Cow-Calf Margin ³(\$ / cow)	1140.00	897.00	523.50	343.45
Estimated annual revenue - annual variable costs				
Feedlot Margin (\$ / head)	116.33	497.56	114.00	213.97
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$215.38)	(\$137.90)	(\$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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John Nalivka (208) 739-2013 jnalivka@fmtc.com