



Sterling Beef Profit Tracker

"Monitoring Free Market Beef Industry Profits"
Sterling Marketing, Inc.

	Week Ending	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
	August 30, 2025			
Feedlot Margin - Unhedged (\$ / head)	\$662.03	\$710.88	\$787.84	\$73.76
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ / cwt)	244.44	244.76	244.41	184.03
Feeder Steer (Ok City 750-800 lb, \$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	372.12	361.77	348.49	245.41
Against this Week's Marketing	279.70	273.53	265.11	244.60
Feed Cost (\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	367.31	398.84	372.41	387.87
Against this Week's Marketing	469.93	473.59	456.73	368.44
Total Cost (feeder steer, processing cost, vet med, feed, yardage, interest, death loss)(\$ / head)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	3,559.03	3,506.71	3,370.85	2,552.97
Against this Week's Marketing	2,908.00	2,861.25	2,775.01	2,502.66
Calculated Breakeven Price (\$ / cwt)				
For this Week's Feedlot Placement	241.29	237.74	228.53	173.08
Against this Week's Marketing	197.15	193.98	188.14	178.76
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(\$11.48)	(\$72.43)	(\$316.32)	(\$4.17)
Choice Steers (5-Area Direct, \$ cwt)	244.44	244.76	244.41	184.03
Beef Cutout¹ (\$ / cwt)	404.37	393.98	364.54	313.57
Drop Credit ² (\$/hd)	181.82	182.29	181.36	170.16
	August 30, 2025	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Cattle Slaughter	565,000	551,000	536,919	616,790
Steer & Heifer	458,780	447,412	437,052	498,366
Fed Plant Capacity Utilization	77.8%	75.9%	74.1%	85.5%
Cows	96,050	93,670	90,202	107,321
Cow Plant Capacity Utilization	64.6%	63.0%	60.7%	73.7%
Beef Production	484.6	472.6	489.2	524.4
(federally inspected, mil. lbs.)				
Carcass Weight - average - all cattle (lbs.)	866	866	867	852
Relative Feeding Cost (against current Placement week)				
Feeder Steer	81.03%	79.95%	80.12%	74.50%
Feed	0.00%	13.94%	13.42%	15.50%
Annual Projections - August 11, 2025	2025*	2024	2023	2022
Cow-Calf Margin³ (\$ / cow)	673.00	404.79	320.65	74.52
Estimated annual revenue - annual variable costs				
Feedlot Margin (\$ / head)	510.00	114.00	213.97	96.56
Packer Margin (\$ / head)	(226.50)	(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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