

Yearling Beef Steer Feeding Planning Budget

Using this planning budget, beef cattle producers may estimate their costs and returns for 2024. Table 1 presents estimates for yearling steers purchased in November 2023 and sold in April 2024 in Missouri. Assumptions were based on price forecasts as of September 2023. Detailed assumptions and feed requirements are summarized in Tables 2, 3 and 4. The production practices used to develop these cost estimates are common in Missouri beef farms. Use the “Your estimate” column to plan your operation’s costs and returns for 2024.

Table 1. Missouri yearling beef steer feeding planning budget.

	Per steer sold ¹	Your estimate
Income		
Market steer sales	2,632.50	
Less death loss (2 percent)	-52.65	
Total income	2,579.85	
Operating costs		
Purchased steer calf	1,907.10	
Purchased feed	493.69	
Labor	35.40	
Veterinary, drugs and supplies	11.75	
Marketing	64.50	
Machinery and feed preparation	67.40	
Utilities	6.00	
Facility and equipment repair	11.00	
Professional fees	1.00	
Miscellaneous	1.00	
Operating interest	115.35	
Total operating costs	2,714.18	
Ownership costs		
Depreciation on facilities and equipment	4.50	
Interest on facilities and equipment	6.00	
Insurance and taxes on capital items	7.13	
Total ownership costs	17.63	
Total costs	2,731.81	
Income over operating costs	-134.33	
Income over total costs	-151.96	

¹ Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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Table 2. Assumptions in Missouri yearling beef steer feeding planning budget.

Selected input quantities	Per unit	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Steer purchase weight, pounds	750	Steer purchase price, per hundredweight	254.28
Market steer sale weight, pounds	1,350	Market steer sale price, per hundredweight	195.00
Labor, hours per head	2	Labor cost, per hour	17.70
Operating interest, percent	9		

Table 3. Feed requirements per steer in Missouri yearling beef steer feeding planning budget.

Feed description	Unit	Percent	Cost per unit	Total pounds ¹	Dollars
Corn, per bushel	bushel	52.25	5	2,508	223.92
Dried distiller grains	ton	34.00	240	1,632	195.84
Mixed hay	ton	12.00	165	576	47.52
Limestone	ton	1.00	200	48	4.80
Salt and additives, per ton	ton	0.75	1,200	36	21.60
Total		100.00		4,800	493.69

¹Ration assumes 180 days on feed and 3.33 pound average daily gain for a steer.

Table 4. Machinery assumptions used in Missouri yearling beef steer feeding planning budget.

Description	Cost per hour	Hours	Dollars
Tractor; 105 MFWD	53.27	90	4,830.30
Grinder/mixer wagon	15.00	90	1,350.00
Pickup	40.00	8	320.00
Stock trailer	30.00	8	240.00
Total			6,740.30
Total per steer¹			67.40

¹ Machinery needs are based on 100 fed steers.

Abbreviations: MFWD = mechanical front-wheel drive tractor

Farmers can also customize this budget to fit their own operations by using the [Missouri Beef Enterprise Tool](https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/Beef/Docs/MissouriBeefEnterprise.xlsx) (extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/Beef/Docs/MissouriBeefEnterprise.xlsx). Download the spreadsheet tool to keep an electronic copy of your cost and return estimates for a beef cattle operation in Missouri.