

# Missouri Beef Cow-Calf Planning Budget

Using this planning budget, beef cow-calf operations may estimate their costs and returns for 2026. Table 1 presents estimates for a cow-calf operation (50-cow herd size and purchased replacements) in Missouri with either a fall or spring calving season selling their calves in calendar year 2026. Assumptions were based on price forecasts as of October 2025. 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 2026.

**Table 1. Missouri beef cow-calf planning budget for 2026.**

	Fall calving (dollars per cow)	Spring calving (dollars per cow)	Your estimate
<b>Income</b>			
Steer calf sales	1,194.57	1,118.37	
Heifer calf sales	1,056.05	986.26	
Cull cow sales	202.50	225.00	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2,453.11</b>	<b>2,329.63</b>	
<b>Operating costs</b>			
Pasture (rent, fertilizer, weed control, infrastructure)	320.10	373.45	
Feed and mineral	386.46	315.97	
Labor	176.00	176.00	
Veterinary, drugs and supplies	40.00	40.00	
Marketing	61.33	58.24	
Machinery, utilities, and repairs	199.20	184.53	
Cow replacement	480.00	560.00	
Breeding costs	40.00	40.00	
Professional fees, misc. (legal, accounting, etc.)	20.00	20.00	
Operating interest	42.84	41.69	
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<b>1,765.93</b>	<b>1,809.87</b>	
<b>Ownership costs</b>			
Farm business overhead	24.53	23.30	
Depreciation and interest on capital assets	295.73	306.46	
Insurance and taxes on capital assets	39.91	40.61	
<b>Total ownership costs</b>	<b>360.17</b>	<b>370.36</b>	
<b>Total cash-based costs</b>	<b>1,629.84</b>	<b>1,672.33</b>	
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>2,126.10</b>	<b>2180.23</b>	
<b>Income over cash-based costs<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>823.27</b>	<b>655.14</b>	
<b>Income over operating costs</b>	<b>655.14</b>	<b>519.75</b>	
<b>Income over total costs</b>	<b>327.02</b>	<b>149.40</b>	
Breakeven calf price per hundredweight	284.94	293.77	

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

1. Cash-based costs exclude operator labor, depreciation, business overhead and opportunity interest.

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**Table 2. Income assumptions used in Missouri beef cow-calf planning budget for 2026.**

Category	Percent	Weight (pounds)	Dollars per hundredweight	Calf crop (percent weaned)	Dollars per cow
Fall calving					
Steer	50	590	440.15	92	1,194.57
Heifers	50	550	417.41	92	1,056.05
Cull cows	10	1,250	162.00		202.50
Spring calving					
Steer	50	590	421.23	90	1,118.37
Heifers	50	550	398.49	90	986.26
Cull cows	12	1,250	150.00		225.00

**Table 3. Other assumptions used in Missouri beef cow-calf planning budget for 2026.**

Selected input quantities	Per unit	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Labor, hours per cow	8	Labor cost, per hour	22
Fall calving cows replaced, percent	12	Heifer replacement value, per head	4,000
Spring calving cows replaced, percent	14	Bull value, per head	5,000

**Table 4. Feed requirements in Missouri beef cow-calf planning budget for 2026, on a per cow basis.**

	Dollars per unit	Amount fed, per cow-unit <sup>1</sup>	Dollars per cow
Fall calving			
Pasture, acres	106.70	3.0	320.10
Mixed hay, per ton	90.00	2.8	254.12
Corn, per bushel	5.25	9.5	49.63
Dried distillers grains, per ton	175.00	0.2	26.85
Salt and mineral mix, per pound	0.60	93.1	55.87
<b>Total</b>			<b>701.36</b>
Spring calving			
Pasture, acres	106.70	3.5	373.45
Mixed hay, per ton	90.00	2.5	222.35
Corn, per bushel	5.25	3.8	19.85
Dried distillers grains, per ton	175.00	0.1	17.90
Salt and mineral mix, per pound	0.60	93.1	55.87
<b>Total</b>			<b>687.34</b>

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

1. Cow-unit includes a cow, her calf at side, and 4% allocation of bull.

**Table 5. Pasture cost assumptions in Missouri cow-calf planning budget.**

	Dollars per acre
Pasture rent	50.00
Nitrogen, 30 pounds N	21.00
Phosphorous, 10 pounds P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	7.30
Potassium, 20 pounds K <sub>2</sub> O	8.40
Weed control	15.00
Grazing system management	5.00
<b>Total pasture cost</b>	<b>106.70</b>

Farmers can customize this budget using the [Missouri Beef Budget workbook \(XLSX\)](https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/beef-budgets.xlsx) (extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/beef-budgets.xlsx).

The publication revises and replaces MU Extension publications G679, Southern Missouri Beef Cow-Calf Planning Budget, and G680, Northern Missouri Beef Cow-Calf Planning Budget.



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