

Missouri Beef Finishing Planning Budget

Using this planning budget, beef cattle producers may estimate their costs and returns for 2026. Table 1 presents estimates for backgrounded cattle purchased in November 2025 and sold in May 2026 in Missouri. 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 finishing planning budget for 2026.

	Dollars per steer sold	Dollars per heifer sold	Your estimate
Income			
Fed cattle sales	3,684.40	3,430.00	
Less death loss (1%)	-36.84	-34.30	
Total income	3,647.56	3,395.70	
Operating costs			
Purchased feeder calf	2,804.40	2,520.00	
Feed	440.57	440.97	
Labor	44.00	44.00	
Veterinary, drugs and supplies	20.00	20.00	
Marketing and transportation	111.19	106.89	
Machinery, utilities and repair	158.28	158.28	
Livestock insurance	20.00	17.00	
Professional fees and miscellaneous	20.00	20.00	
Operating interest	142.06	130.50	
Total operating costs	3,760.50	3,455.64	
Ownership costs			
Farm business overhead	36.48	33.96	
Depreciation and interest on capital assets	28.00	28.00	
Insurance and taxes on capital items	3.49	3.49	
Total ownership costs	67.97	65.45	
Total cash-based costs¹	3,719.99	3,415.13	
Total costs	3,828.46	3,521.09	
Income over cash-based costs	-72.43	-19.43	
Income over operating costs	-112.94	-59.94	
Income over total costs	-180.91	-125.39	
Breakeven price per hundredweight, cash costs	246.36	243.94	

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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

Developed by **Drew Kientzy**, Senior Research Analyst, Agricultural Business and Policy; **Wesley Tucker**, Field Specialist in Agricultural Business; and **Zachary Erwin**, Field Specialist in Livestock

Table 2. Assumptions in Missouri beef finishing planning budget.

Selected input quantities	Per unit	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Steer purchase weight, pounds	820	Steer purchase price, per hundredweight	342.00
Fed steer sale weight, pounds	1,510	Fed steer sale price, per hundredweight	244.00
Heifer purchase weight, pounds	750	Heifer purchase price, per hundredweight	336.00
Fed heifer sale weight, pounds	1,400	Fed heifer sale price, per hundredweight	245.00
Labor, hours per head	2	Labor cost, per hour	22.00
Operating interest, annual percentage	7.25		

Table 3. Feed requirements per head in Missouri beef finishing planning budget.

Feed description	Unit	Percent	Dollars per unit	Total pounds ¹	Total dollars
Farm-raised corn	bushel	68	4.23	3,755	283.63
Dried distillers grains	ton	18	175.00	994	86.97
Mixed hay	ton	12	90.00	663	29.82
Limestone	hundredweight	1	200.00	55	7.18
Salt and mineral	pounds	1	0.60	55	33.13
Total		100		5,522	440.73

1. Ration assumes 210 days on feed and 3.3 pound average daily gain for a steer.

Table 4. Machinery assumptions used in Missouri beef finishing planning budget.

Description	Dollars per hour	Hours	Total dollars
Tractor, 105 MFWD	55.00	94	5,156.00
Grinder/mixer wagon	15.00	69	1,013.00
Pickup	32.00	15	480.00
Stock trailer	20.00	8	160.00
Total			6,809.00
Total per head¹			136.18

1. Machinery needs are based on 50 head fed annually.

Abbreviations: MFWD = mechanical front-wheel drive tractor.

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).



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