

Grain-Fed Freezer Beef Pricing Spreadsheet

Beef Animal Production Costs

	Your Numbers	Feb 2026 Example
Initial cost of feeder calf (\$)	\$2,075.00	\$2,075.00
Cost of feed (\$)	\$600.00	\$600.00
Transportation and marketing (\$)	\$25.00	\$25.00
Yardage including labor (\$)	\$300.00	\$300.00
Other costs (\$)	\$65.00	\$65.00
Total input costs (\$)	\$3,065.00	\$3,065.00

Live Price versus Hanging Carcass Price Comparison

	Live weight known	Carcass weight known	Feb 2026 Example
Estimated live weight of animal (lb.)	1300	1300	1400
Dressing percentage (%)	62%	62%	63%
Carcass weight (lb.)	806	806	882
Agreed carcass price (\$/lb.)	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$3.80
Carcass value (\$)	\$3,425.50	\$3,425.50	\$3,351.60
Live weight price based on agreed carcass price (\$/lb.)	\$2.64	\$2.64	\$2.39
Current live market price (\$/lb.)	\$2.35	\$2.35	\$2.35
Value of agreed price versus live market price (\$/hd)	\$370.50	\$370.50	\$61.60
Estimated Return (\$/hd)	\$360.50	\$360.50	\$286.60

Comparison of Buying Direct versus Store-Bought Retail Beef

	Your Numbers	Feb 2026 Example
Carcass weight - from above in row 15 (lb.)	806	882
Carcass yield (%)	68%	68%
Retail product to take home to freezer (lb.)	548	600
Slaughter cost (\$/hd)	\$125.00	\$125.00
Cutting, wrapping, and freezing cost (\$/lb.)	\$1.00	\$1.00
Processing and packaging cost (\$)	\$806.00	\$882.00
Total packaged carcass value (\$)	\$4,356.50	\$4,358.60
Final packaged price of retail product (\$/lb.)	\$7.95	\$7.27
Current retail price of Choice graded beef (\$/lb.)	\$9.55	\$9.55
Value using average current retail price of Choice graded beef (\$)	\$5,234.16	\$5,727.71
Savings value to consumer (\$/lb.)	\$1.60	\$2.28
Percent savings value to consumer (%)	16.8	23.9

Updated in Feb. 2026

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/how_much_to_expect_when_buying_freezer_beef_part_one

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/meat-price-spreads.aspx>

