

## Grass-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 harvested and purchased feed (\$)	\$660.00	\$660.00
Transportation and marketing (\$)	\$25.00	\$25.00
Pasture and yardage including labor (\$)	\$450.00	\$450.00
Other costs (\$)	\$65.00	\$65.00
<b>Total input costs (\$)</b>	<b>\$3,275.00</b>	<b>\$3,275.00</b>

### Live Price versus Hanging Carcass Price Comparison

	Live weight known	Carcass weight known	Feb 2026 Example
Estimated live weight of animal (lb.)	1200	1200	1250
Dressing percentage (%)	57%	57%	58%
Carcass weight (lb.)	684	684	725
Agreed carcass price (\$/lb.)	\$5.75	\$5.75	\$5.75
Carcass value (\$)	\$3,933.00	\$3,933.00	\$4,168.75
Live weight price based on agreed carcass price (\$/lb.)	\$3.28	\$3.28	\$3.34
Current live market price (\$/lb.)	\$2.35	\$2.35	\$2.35
<b>Value of agreed price versus live market price (\$/hd)</b>	<b>\$1,113.00</b>	<b>\$390,480.00</b>	<b>\$1,231</b>
<b>Estimated Return (\$/hd)</b>	<b>\$658.00</b>	<b>\$658.00</b>	<b>\$894</b>

### Comparison of Buying Direct versus Store-Bought Retail Beef

	Your Numbers	Feb 2026 Example
Carcass weight - from above in row 15 (lb.)	684	725
Carcass yield (%)	70%	70%
Retail product to take home to freezer (lb.)	479	508
Slaughter cost (\$/hd)	\$125.00	\$125.00
Cutting, wrapping, and freezing cost (\$/lb.)	\$1.00	\$1.00
Processing and packaging cost (\$)	\$684.00	\$725.00
Total packaged carcass value (\$)	\$4,742.00	\$5,018.75
Final packaged price of retail product (\$/lb.)	\$9.90	\$9.89
Current retail price of Grass-fed beef (\$/lb.)	\$13.00	\$13.00
Value using average current retail price of Grass-fed beef (\$)	\$6,224.40	\$6,597.50
Savings value to consumer (\$/lb.)	\$3.10	\$3.11
<b>Percent savings value to consumer (%)</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>23.9</b>







Updated in Feb. 2026

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/how\\_much\\_to\\_expect\\_when\\_buying\\_freezer\\_beef\\_part\\_one](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/how_much_to_expect_when_buying_freezer_beef_part_one)

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lsmngfbef.pdf>

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

















