

Should I take a MARKET BEEF as a 4-H project?

Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision making. This fact sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

SPACE NEEDED

- 40 - 50 square feet per animal in confinement
- 400 – 600 square feet exercise area

COMFORT ZONE

- 40-65° F for optimal performance

WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical
- 10 - 20 gallons per day

FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat 15 - 20 pounds of feed per day
- Will gain from 2.2 – 3.5 pounds per day (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 6.5 - 7 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)

MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- Approximate purchase cost is \$1.90/lb for 550 lb. steer (more for show cattle)
- Should weigh 1100 - 1400 pounds when finished (1200-1500 pounds for dairy steers)
- Should reach this weight at approximately 15 months of age

BUDGETING

- Projected market price is \$ 1.60 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$ 615 and includes:
 - o Hay
 - o Corn
 - o Soybean Meal
 - o Salt & Mineral

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2014 Market Steer Budget
550-1250 lbs, Days on Feed: 232

Updated: 6/1/2014

ITEM	EXPLANATION	Your Prod Numbers	PRICE PER UNIT	Amount	YOUR BUDGET
RECEIPTS ¹					
Steer	1250.00 lbs	Death Loss 1.2%	1.60 /lb	\$1,976.00	\$1,976.00
Manure Nutrients	\$0.00 lbs		0.00 /ton	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS				\$1,976.00	\$1,976.00
VARIABLE COSTS					
	Days on Feed	232			
Feed					
Corn	11 lbs		\$3.75 /bu	170.89	170.89
Soybean Meal	0.8 lbs		\$350.00 /ton	32.48	32.48
Mineral	0.2 lbs		\$0.12 /lb	5.34	5.34
Corn Silage	28 lbs		\$40.50 /ton	131.54	131.54
Other	0 lbs		\$0.00 /ton	0.00	0.00
TOTAL FEED COSTS				340.25	340.25
Yearling Steer	550 lbs		\$1.90 /lb	1,045.00	1,045.00
Health Program ²				30.00	30.00
Marketing ³				20.00	20.00
Bedding	0 tons		\$0.00 /ton	0.00	30.00
Supplies and Misc ⁴				13.00	13.00
Int. on Operating Cap. ⁵	\$1,237	6.5 mo	4.0%	26.79	26.79
TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS				1,475.05	1,505.05
FIXED COSTS					
Labor Charge ⁶	2 hrs		\$15.00 /hr	30.00	30.00
Equipment Charge ⁷				13.69	13.69
Buildings Charge ⁸				14.15	14.15
Management Charge ⁹		5% of gross profit		98.80	98.80
TOTAL FIXED COSTS				156.64	156.64
TOTAL COSTS				1,631.69	1,661.69
RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE COSTS				500.95	470.95
RETURN ABOVE TOTAL COSTS				344.31	314.31
RETURN TO LABOR AND MANAGEMENT ¹⁰				473.11	443.11

Values highlighted in gold may be changed to assist in computing "Your Budget" Column using formulas embeded within the spreadsheet.

Values highlighted in light blue are cells embedded with formulas and will be calculated for the user based on data entered.

These cells may be input manually, but formulas will be overwritten!

Values highlighted in gray are stand alone cells that require direct input from the user.

¹ 1250 lbs. gross weight less 1.2% death loss

² Costs of health program estimated by authors based on industry experience and expertise, includes dewormer, fly control, two rounds of vaccinations and growth promoters

³ Costs of marketing estimated by authors based on industry experience and expertise, includes transportation

⁴ Costs of supplies other expenses estimated by authors based on industry experience and expertise

⁵ Includes full cost of feeder steer plus 1/2 cost of feed, vet & med. and utilities for 6.5 mo.

⁶ Labor includes cost for wages and benefits

⁷ Assumes purchase of new equipment, straight -line depreciation over 10 years, Interest of 5%, Housing of 1%, Insurance of 0.5%, and Repairs of 2%.