
2024 Cost of Production

Grassing



Guidelines For Estimating
Beef Grassing Costs
Based on a 500 Head (Steers)

Date: April, 2024

This guide is designed to provide you with planning information and a format for calculating costs of production of a grass cattle enterprise in Manitoba. General Department recommendations are assumed in using feed and veterinary inputs. These figures provide an economic evaluation of the livestock and estimated prices required to cover all costs. Costs include labour, investment and depreciation, but do not include management costs, nor do they necessarily represent the average cost of production in Manitoba.

Manitoba has an abundance of competitively priced land suitable for pasturing cattle (ie. Community Pastures, Agricultural Crown Lands, private pastures, etc.). In this budget it is assumed that feeders are purchased in the spring and put in a feedlot for 60 days prior to being placed on pasture for an additional 90 days.

These budgets may be adjusted by putting in your own figures. As a producer you are encouraged to calculate your own costs of production. Good management is assumed in that a balanced ration is being fed, livestock are on a herd health program and handling facilities are included.

This tool is available as an Excel worksheet at:



[The Farm Machinery Cost of Production Guide](#)
determine machinery costs.

is also available to help

Contact Us

For more information, contact a Farm Management Specialist.

- manitoba.ca/agriculture
- mbfarmbusiness@gov.mb.ca
- 1-844-769-6224

Note: This budget is only a guide and is not intended as an in-depth study of the cost of production of this industry. Interpretation and use of this information is the responsibility of the user. If you need help with a budget, contact a Farm Management Specialist.

Beef Grassing Cost Summary - April, 2024

	<u>Cost/head</u>	<u>Cost/cwt sold</u>	<u>Your Cost</u>
A. Operating Costs			
1. Feed Costs:			
1.01 Ground Barley	\$18.75	\$2.22	
1.02 Hay	\$41.90	\$4.95	
1.03 Salt, Vitamins & Minerals	\$16.20	\$1.91	
Total Feed Costs	\$76.85	\$9.08	
2. Other Operating Costs:			
2.01 Feeder Cost (600 lb steer @ \$380/cwt)	\$2,292.30	\$270.96	
2.02 Yardage	\$56.00	\$6.62	
2.03 Rented Pasture	\$81.00	\$9.57	
2.04 Pasture Checking	\$1.60	\$0.19	
2.05 Veterinary Medicine & Supplies	\$16.75	\$1.98	
2.06 Insurance	\$4.89	\$0.58	
2.07 Selling Cost	\$87.06	\$10.29	
2.08 Death Loss	\$36.16	\$4.27	
Subtotal Operating Costs	\$2,652.61	\$313.55	
2.09 Operating Interest	\$91.45	\$10.81	
Total Operating Costs	\$2,744.06	\$324.36	
B. Fixed Costs			
3.01 Own Pasture Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Operating & Fixed Costs	\$2,744.06	\$324.36	
C. Labour			
	\$5.18	\$0.61	
Total Costs Of Production	\$2,749.24	\$324.97	

Profitability and Breakeven Analysis

Estimated Farmgate	<u>Per Head</u>	
Gross Revenue @ \$320/cwt market price	\$2,707.20	
	Breakeven Purchase	Breakeven Selling
	Price (\$/cwt) @	Price (\$/cwt) @
	<u>\$320/cwt market price</u>	<u>\$380/cwt market price</u>
Operating Costs	\$375.91	\$324.36
Operating Costs & Labour	\$375.04	\$324.97
Operating & Fixed Costs	\$375.91	\$324.36
Total Costs	\$375.04	\$324.97
	<u>Cost per lb of</u>	<u>Marginal Returns per head</u>
	<u>gain sold (\$/cwt)</u>	<u>@ \$320/cwt market price</u>
Operating Costs	\$183.64	(\$36.86)
Operating Costs & Labour	\$185.75	(\$42.04)
Operating & Fixed Costs	\$183.64	(\$36.86)
Total Costs	\$185.75	(\$42.04)

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Risk & Sensitivity Analysis

	Per Head
A. Operating Costs	\$2,744.06
B. Fixed Costs	\$0.00
C. Labour	\$5.18
Total Costs	\$2,749.24

Estimated Farmgate

Price (\$ per cwt)	\$320.00
Shrunk weight (lbs)	846

	Up	Down
Percent Price Variation	5%	5%
Percent Grasser Weight Variation	2%	2%

Higher Price (\$ per cwt)	\$336.00
Lower Price (\$ per cwt)	\$304.00
Higher Grasser Weight	862.9
Lower Grasser Weight	829.1

Higher Margin Scenario - Price Up 5% and Grasser Weight Up 2%

Gross Revenue per Grasser	\$2,899.41
Marginal Returns	
Over Operating Costs	\$155.35
Over Operating & Labour Costs	\$150.17
Over Operating & Fixed Costs	\$155.35
Over Total Costs (Net Profit)	\$150.17
Operating Expense Ratio	94.6%

Lower Margin Scenario - Price Down 5% and Grasser Weight Down 2%

Gross Revenue per Grasser	\$2,520.40
Marginal Returns	
Over Operating Costs	(\$223.66)
Over Operating & Labour Costs	(\$228.84)
Over Operating & Fixed Costs	(\$223.66)
Over Total Costs (Net Profit)	(\$228.84)
Operating Expense Ratio	108.9%

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Beef Grasser Cattle Production Costs

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. This Budget assumes all 500 animals are steers.
2. All feed is purchased.

HERD PROFILE

Number of Feeders Purchased	500 head
Feeder Cattle Mortality Rate (%)	1.5 %
Feeder Purchased Shrunken Weight (lbs)	600 lbs
Feeder Cattle Price (\$/cwt)	\$380 \$/cwt
Finish Weight (lbs)	900 lbs
Percent Shrink (%) - out	6.0% %
Shrunken Weight (lbs)	846 lbs
Feeder Selling Price	\$320 \$/cwt
LPI Insurance Premium	\$6.00 \$/cwt
Average Daily Gain Gross (lbs/day)	2.00 lbs/day
Average Daily Gain Net (lbs/day)	1.64 lbs/day
Total Days Fed	150 days
Days on Feed in Feedlot	60 days
Days on Pasture	90 days

(1) FOOTNOTE: 1 kilogram (kg) = 2.2046 pounds (lbs)

FEED COSTS	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ground Barley (\$/bu)	\$5.00	3.00 lbs/day
Hay (\$/tonne)	\$110.00	14.00 lbs/day
Salt, Mineral etc.(\$/lb)	\$0.90	18.00 lbs/YEAR

OTHER OPERATING COSTS

Feeder Purchase Costs	
Buying Commission per CWT	\$1.00
Trucking in Cost	
Average Weight	600 lbs/head
Distance	75 miles
Rate	\$7.00 /loaded mile
Truck Capacity	54,000 lbs/load
Number of head per load - calves	90 per load
Yardage:	
Cost/head/day	\$0.80
Initial Chute fee \$/head	\$8.00

Veterinary Medicine & Supplies:**Cattle Medication:**

Tagging - 5% retagging cost	\$0.25
Vitamin A-D	\$0.00
External & Internal Parasites	\$1.25
Blackleg 7 way	\$0.83
Growth Implants	\$3.42
Antibiotics	\$7.00
Vaccine 5 Way	\$4.00

Trucking Out Cost

Average Weight	900 lbs/head
Distance	75 miles
Rate	\$7.00 /loaded mile
Truck Capacity	54,000 lbs/load
Number of head per load - calves	60 per load

Marketing Cost:

Commission on Sales \$/head	\$20.00
Insurance fee \$/head	\$1.35
Checkoff \$/head	\$5.50

Insurance:

Cost per \$100 Capital Invested in:	
a). Livestock	\$0.21
b). Building & Equipment	\$0.00
Additional Coverage for Liability	\$49.00

Operating Interest Rate (%)	9.00
Investment Interest Rate (%)	2.50

PASTURE COSTS

Land Value per Acre	\$0.00
Property Taxes per Acre	\$0.00
Carrying Capacity per Head (acres/head)	2.5
Pasture rental - cost per head per day	\$0.90
Pasture checking costs (ie fuel)	\$800

LABOUR COSTS

Feedlot Labour - hours/day	1.00
Pasture Labour - hours/day	0.40
Labour Rate/Hour	\$27.00

Assumptions

1. Gross Average daily gain (ADG) is assumed to be 2 lbs/day. Net ADG is 1.64 lbs/day.
2. It is assumed that the feeder steer weighs in at 600 lbs. and is raised to 900 lbs. (846 lbs. after 6% shrink).
3. Cattle are on feed for 150 days; the first 60 days in a feedlot and the remaining 90 days on pasture.
4. Assumed 500 head of cattle on feed and pasture.

Beef Grasser Production Cost Worksheet

A. OPERATING COSTS

Your Cost

1. Feed Costs:

1.01 Ground Barley

	60	days on ground barley	
x	3.00	lbs/feeder/day	
=	3.75	bushels fed	
x	\$5.00	/bu	
=	\$18.75	/feeder	

1.02 Hay

	60	days on hay	
x	14.00	lbs/feeder/day	
=	0.38	tonnes fed	
x	\$110.00	/tonne	
=	\$41.90	/feeder	

1.03 Salt, Vitamins & Minerals

	18.00	lbs/feeder/year	
x	\$0.90	/lb	
=	\$16.20	/feeder	

Total Feed Cost **\$76.85 /feeder**

2. Other Operating Costs:

2.01 Feeder Cattle Cost

	\$1.00	\$/cwt	
x	600	lbs/feeder	
÷	100	lbs/cwt	
=	\$6.00	/feeder	

	75.00	miles	
x	\$7.00	/loaded mile	
x	500	feeders	
x	6	loads	
÷	500	feeders	
=	\$6.30	/feeder	

	600	lbs/feeder	
x	\$380.00	\$/cwt	
÷	100	lbs/cwt	
=	\$2,280.00	/feeder	

Total Cost **\$2,292.30 /feeder**

Your Cost

2.02 Yardage (includes straw, repairs, utilities, supplies & depreciation)

Yardage		\$0.80	cost/head/day	_____
	x	60	days on feed	_____
	=	\$48.00	/feeder	_____
Chute fee	=	\$8.00	/feeder	_____
Total Yardage	=	\$56.00	/feeder	_____

2.03 Rented Pasture

		\$0.90	cost/head/day	_____
	x	90	days on pasture	_____
	=	\$81.00	/feeder	_____

2.04 Pasture Checking

		\$800	cost per year	_____
	÷	500	head	_____
	=	\$1.60	/feeder	_____

2.05 Veterinary Medicine & Supplies

		\$0.25	/Tagging	_____
+		\$0.00	/Vitamin	_____
+		\$1.25	/Parasites	_____
+		\$0.83	/Blackleg 7 way	_____
+		\$3.42	/Growth Implant	_____
+		\$7.00	/Antibiotics	_____
+		\$4.00	/Vaccine 3 way	_____
	=	\$16.75	/feeder	_____

2.06 Insurance

		\$2,280.00	feeder cost	_____
x		\$0.21	cost/\$100 capital	_____
÷		100	/\$100	_____
=		\$4.79	/feeder	_____
		\$49	additional coverage for liability	_____
÷		500	feeder cattle	_____
=		\$0.10	/feeder	_____

Total = \$4.89 /feeder

2.07 Feeder Selling Costs

Trucking-out		75.00	miles	_____
		\$7.00	/loaded mile	_____
		500.00	feeders	_____
		9.00	loads	_____
÷		500	feeders	_____
=		\$9.45	/feeder	_____

Checkoff, WLPIP, Selling Commission

		\$5.50	Checkoff Levy	_____
+		\$50.76	LPI Insurance Premium	_____
+		\$20.00	commission	_____
+		\$1.35	insurance	_____
=		\$77.61	/feeder	_____

Total = \$87.06 /feeder

2.08 Death Loss

Your Cost

	\$2,292.30	feeder cattle cost	_____
+	\$2,529.39	maximum value	_____
÷	2.0	average	_____
=	\$2,410.84	average value	_____
x	1.5	% mortality rate	_____
=	\$36.16	/feeder	_____

2.09 Operating Interest

	\$2,292.30	feeder cost	_____
+	\$180.15	½ of feed & other costs	_____
x	9.00	% operating interest	_____
x	150	days on feed	_____
÷	365	365 days	_____
=	\$91.45	/feeder	_____

B. FIXED COSTS (Pasture)

Land

	2.5	acres/head	_____
x	\$0.00	\$/acre includes fence	_____
x	2.50	% investment rate	_____
=	\$0.00	/feeder	_____

Taxes

	2.5	acres/head	_____
x	\$0.00	\$/acre	_____
=	\$0.00	/feeder	_____

Total

=	\$0.00	/feeder	_____
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C. LABOUR

Feedlot

	1.00	hours/day feedlot	_____
x	60	days in feedlot	_____
÷	500	head	_____
x	\$27.00	\$/hour	_____
=	\$3.24	/feeder	_____

Pasture

	0.40	hours/day pasture	_____
x	90	days on pasture	_____
÷	500	head	_____
x	\$27.00	\$/hour	_____
=	\$1.94	/feeder	_____

Total

=	\$5.18	/feeder	_____
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Breakeven Calculations

Operating Costs

	\$2,744.06	operating costs	_____
-	\$2,292.30	feeder cost	_____
÷	246	lbs gained weight	_____
=	\$1.84	/lb (gain sold)	_____

Cost per lb of gain sold (shrunk weight)

Operating & Labour Costs

	\$2,749.24	operating costs	_____
-	\$2,292.30	feeder cost	_____
÷	246	lbs gained weight	_____
=	\$1.86	/lb (gain sold)	_____

Operating & Fixed

	\$2,744.06	oper. & fixed costs	_____
-	\$2,292.30	feeder cost	_____
÷	246	lbs gained weight	_____
=	\$1.84	/lb (gain sold)	_____

			<u>Your Cost</u>
Total Costs		total costs	_____
	- \$2,292.30	feeder cost	_____
	+ 246	lbs gained weight	_____
	= \$1.86	/lb (gain sold)	_____
Operating Costs	\$2,744.06	operating costs	_____
	+ 846	lbs shrunk weight	_____
	= \$3.24	/lb	_____
Operating & Labour Costs	\$2,749.24	operating & labour	_____
	+ 846	lbs shrunk weight	_____
	= \$3.25	/lb	_____
Operating & Fixed	\$2,744.06	oper. & fixed costs	_____
	+ 846	lbs shrunk weight	_____
	= \$3.24	/lb	_____
Total Costs	\$2,749.24	total costs	_____
	+ 846	lbs shrunk weight	_____
	= \$3.25	/lb	_____
Operating Costs	846	lbs shrunk weight	_____
	x \$320.00	\$/cwt selling price	_____
	= \$2,707.20	income	_____
	- \$451.76	operating less feeder cost	_____
Breakeven purchase price (s)	÷ 600	lbs purchase weight	_____
	= \$3.76	/lb	_____
Operating & Labour Costs	846	lbs shrunk weight	_____
	x \$320.00	\$/cwt selling price	_____
	= \$2,707.20	income	_____
	- \$456.94	operating less feeder cost	_____
	÷ 600	lbs purchase weight	_____
	= \$3.75	/lb	_____
Operating & Fixed		lbs shrunk weight	_____
	x \$320.00	\$/cwt selling price	_____
	= \$2,707.20	income	_____
	- \$451.76	op. & fixed less feeder cost	_____
	÷ 600	lbs purchase weight	_____
	= \$3.76	/lb	_____
Total Costs	846	lbs shrunk weight	_____
	x \$320.00	\$/cwt selling price	_____
	= \$2,707.20	income	_____
	- \$456.94	total less feeder cost	_____
	÷ 600	lbs purchase weight	_____
	= \$3.75	/lb	_____

April, 2024

Contact Us

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