

Summer Grazing of Steers in Eastern Kansas

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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Cost-Return Budget

This budget estimates costs and returns for a season-long and an early-intensive grazing system. Projected 2010 input and output prices are used for illustrative purposes. Producers should use their own prices and costs, and adjust production factors to match their individual situations when using the budget. Breakeven prices are particularly sensitive to changes in average daily gain, pasture rental charge, and feeder cost. The profitability of each system is dependent on many factors including forage mix, pasture costs, type and weight of cattle, and price changes during the grazing season. Therefore, it is important to analyze the feasibility of both systems at the beginning of each grazing season.

Production Level

Costs per unit and net returns to livestock production are highly dependent on production levels. The following estimated budget includes two different production levels. Production levels vary for a number of reasons including livestock quality or genetics, weather, input levels, and management. The two production levels included in this estimated budget reflect production variability due to weather and management as opposed to the quality of the livestock, since livestock values are held constant. Budgeting at multiple production levels can help producers examine the financial risk of a livestock enterprise that is directly related to production risk.

This summer grazing budget includes columns for both below-average and above-average performance for season-long and early-intensive grazing systems. Performance varies due to differences in average daily gain. The values assumed are included in Table 1 and are deviations from long-term averages.

Costs

Operating costs are costs that vary in the short run and can differ on a per head basis from one grazing cycle to the next. Feed requirements for summer grazing systems are minimal. The budgets assume that pasture will be utilized for 5 months for the season-long and 2.5 months for the early-intensive program. Each column includes interest on one-half the variable costs plus the cost of the purchase animal for the length of time the animal is being grazed. Producers who do not rely on borrowed funds should consider the interest charge as an opportunity cost of their own capital. An allowance for shrink is included in the average daily gain estimates. Hundredweight produced is adjusted for death loss and shrink. Farm Management Association summary reports are used as a basis for estimating variable costs such as labor, veterinary, drugs, repairs, fuel, oil, and utilities. These cost items may vary considerably between individual producers.

Ownership costs do not vary from one grazing period to the next and are incurred by virtue of owning equipment and facilities. These capital requirements are minimal for a grazing system. Interest cost on facilities and equipment is based on the average investment times an interest rate of 7.5 percent. Depreciation is based on a remaining life of 10 and 8 years for equipment and machinery, respectively, and it is assumed there is no salvage value at the end of the remaining life of facilities and equipment.

Table 1. *Factors Used for Summer Grazing in Eastern Kansas Cost-Return Budget*

	Season-Long		Early-Intensive		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2	
Days on pasture	150	150	75	75	
Average daily gain	1.75	1.45	2.20	1.80	
Purchase weight	550	550	550	550	
Purchase price	\$117.00	\$117.00	\$117.00	\$117.00	
Sale weight, \$/cwt	813	768	715	685	
Sale price, \$/cwt	\$97.63	\$98.48	\$105.80	\$107.08	
Pasture charge, \$/head	\$64.90	\$64.90	\$56.60	\$56.60	
Mineral and salt, lbs/day @ \$520.00/ton	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	
Labor, hours @ \$13.00/hr	0.80	0.80	0.60	0.60	
Investment in facilities, \$/head	\$10.23	\$10.23	\$5.11	\$5.11	
Investment in equipment, \$/head	\$36.65	\$36.65	\$18.32	\$18.32	
	Useful life	Salvage	Interest	Insurance	Tax rate
	(years)	value, (%)	rate, (%)	rate, (%)	(%)
Facilities	10	0%	7.50%	0.25%	1.50%
Equipment	8	0%	7.50%	0.25%	0.00%
Interest rate on operating costs and purchased cattle					7.5%

COST-RETURN PROJECTION — SUMMER GRAZING STEERS IN EASTERN KANSAS

	Season-Long		Early-Intensive		
	Level I	Level II	Level I	Level II	Your Farm
RETURNS PER HEAD					
1. Market animal: (See Table 1)	\$ 793.24	\$ 755.83	\$ 756.47	\$ 733.50	
2. Less cost of animal: (See Table 1)	643.50	643.50	643.50	643.50	
3. Less death loss	11.90	11.34	11.35	11.00	
4. Other income.....					
A. GROSS RETURNS PER HEAD	\$ 137.85	\$ 101.00	\$ 101.62	\$ 79.00	
COSTS PER HEAD					
5. Summer pasture	\$ 64.90	\$ 64.90	\$ 56.60	\$ 56.60	
6. Harvested forage					
7. Grain					
8. Supplement, mineral, and salt	5.20	5.20	2.60	2.60	
9. Other feed					
10. Labor	10.40	10.40	7.80	7.80	
11. Veterinary, drugs, and supplies	10.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	
12. Marketing costs	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	
13. Hauling.....					
14. Utilities, fuel, and oil	8.39	8.39	6.30	6.30	
15. Facilities and equipment repairs	8.00	8.00	6.00	6.00	
16. Professional fees (legal, accounting, etc.).....	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	
17. Miscellaneous	8.00	8.00	6.00	6.00	
18. Depreciation on facilities and equipment	5.60	5.60	2.80	2.80	
19. Interest on facilities and equipment.....	1.76	1.76	0.88	0.88	
20. Insurance and taxes on facilities and equipment	0.27	0.27	0.14	0.14	
B. SUBTOTAL	\$ 132.52	\$ 132.52	\$ 107.11	\$ 107.11	
21. Interest on feeder and ½ Operating Costs	21.64	21.64	10.65	10.65	
C. TOTAL COSTS	\$ 154.16	\$ 154.16	\$ 117.76	\$ 117.76	
D. RETURNS OVER TOTAL COSTS (A – C)	\$ -16.32	\$ -53.17	\$ -16.14	\$ -38.77	
22. Hundredweight produced	2.50	2.06	1.54	1.25	
23. Feed cost per hundredweight	28.00	34.03	38.37	47.46	
E. BREAKEVEN PRICE, \$/cwt	\$ 99.67	\$ 105.51	\$ 108.09	\$ 112.83	
F. ASSET TURNOVER ((1 + 4 – 3) ÷ INVESTMENT) ¹	113.18%	107.84%	111.72%	108.33%	
G. NET RETURN ON INVESTMENT ((D + 19 + 21) ÷ INVESTMENT) ¹	1.03%	-4.31%	-0.69%	-4.08%	

¹ Investment equals total value of feeder calf, facilities, and equipment

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