

# Summer Grazing of Steers in Western Kansas

Department of Agricultural Economics — [www.agmanager.info](http://www.agmanager.info)



**Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service**

**Kevin C. Dhuyvetter**  
Agricultural Economist  
Farm Management

**Michael Langemeier**  
Agricultural Economist

## Cost–Return Budget

This budget estimates costs and returns for a season-long and an early-intensive grazing system. Projected 2012 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. Break-even prices are particularly sensitive to changes in average daily gain, pasture-rental charge, and feeder cost. The profitability of each system depends on many factors, including forage mix, pasture costs, type and weight of cattle, and price changes during the grazing season. 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 primarily reflect production variability due to weather and management. 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 two alternative performance levels for both 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 2½ months for the early-intensive program. Each column includes interest on one-half of the operating costs added to the cost of the purchased 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. Kansas Farm Management Association summary reports are used as a basis for estimating variable costs such as labor, veterinary, repairs, fuel, oil, and utilities. These cost items may vary considerably among 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 6.5 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 Western 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	1.50	1.20	1.90	1.50	
Purchase weight	550	550	550	550	
Purchase price	\$169.17	\$169.17	\$169.17	\$169.17	
Sale weight, \$/cwt	775	730	693	663	
Sale price, \$/cwt	\$147.11	\$147.71	\$153.97	\$155.36	
Pasture charge, \$/head	\$66.95	\$66.95	\$54.41	\$54.41	
Mineral and salt, lbs/day @ \$603.00/ton	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	
Labor, hours @ \$13.50/hr	1.20	1.20	0.90	0.90	
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%	6.50%	0.25%	1.50%
Equipment	8	0%	6.50%	0.25%	0.00%
Interest rate on operating costs and purchased cattle					6.5%

**COST-RETURN PROJECTION — SUMMER GRAZING STEERS IN WESTERN KANSAS**

	Season-Long		Early-Intensive		Your Farm
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2	
<b>RETURNS PER HEAD</b>					
1. Market animal: (See Table 1) .....	\$ 1,140.10	\$ 1,078.28	\$ 1,066.24	\$ 1,029.26	_____
2. Less cost of animal: (See Table 1) .....	930.44	930.44	930.44	930.44	_____
3. Less death loss .....	17.10	16.17	15.99	15.44	_____
4. Other income.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>A. GROSS RETURN PER HEAD .....</b>	<b>\$ 192.57</b>	<b>\$ 131.67</b>	<b>\$ 119.81</b>	<b>\$ 83.39</b>	_____
<b>COSTS PER HEAD</b>					
5. Summer pasture.....	\$ 66.95	\$ 66.95	\$ 54.41	\$ 54.41	_____
6. Harvested forage .....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Grain .....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Supplement, mineral and salt .....	6.03	6.03	3.01	3.01	_____
9. Other feed .....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. Labor .....	16.20	16.20	12.15	12.15	_____
11. Veterinary, drugs, and supplies .....	11.50	11.50	10.50	10.50	_____
12. Marketing costs .....	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	_____
13. Hauling.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. Utilities, fuel, and oil.....	13.65	13.65	10.24	10.24	_____
15. Facilities and equipment repairs .....	12.00	12.00	9.00	9.00	_____
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 .....	3.05	3.05	1.52	1.52	_____
20. Insurance and taxes on facilities and equipment ....	0.27	0.27	0.14	0.14	_____
<b>B. SUBTOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ 155.25</b>	<b>\$ 155.25</b>	<b>\$ 120.78</b>	<b>\$ 120.78</b>	_____
21. Interest on feeder and ½ Operating Costs .....	26.68	26.68	13.14	13.14	_____
<b>C. TOTAL COSTS PER HEAD .....</b>	<b>\$ 181.93</b>	<b>\$ 181.93</b>	<b>\$ 133.92</b>	<b>\$ 133.92</b>	_____
<b>D. RETURNS OVER TOTAL COSTS (A – C) .....</b>	<b>\$ 10.63</b>	<b>\$ -50.26</b>	<b>\$ -14.10</b>	<b>\$ -50.53</b>	_____
22. Hundredweight produced.....	2.13	1.69	1.32	1.03	_____
23. Feed cost per hundredweight.....	34.20	43.17	43.47	55.99	_____
<b>E. BREAK-EVEN PRICE, \$/cwt.....</b>	<b>\$ 145.72</b>	<b>\$ 154.70</b>	<b>\$ 156.04</b>	<b>\$ 163.10</b>	_____
<b>F. ASSET TURNOVER (A ÷ INVESTMENT)<sup>1</sup> .....</b>	<b>19.70%</b>	<b>13.47%</b>	<b>12.56%</b>	<b>8.74%</b>	_____
<b>G. NET RETURN ON INVESTMENT</b>					
<b>((D + 19 + 21) ÷ INVESTMENT)<sup>1</sup> .....</b>	<b>4.13%</b>	<b>-2.10%</b>	<b>0.06%</b>	<b>-3.76%</b>	_____

<sup>1</sup>Investment equals total value of feeder calf, facilities, and equipment

Publications from Kansas State University are available on the World Wide Web at: [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu).

Publications are reviewed or revised annually by appropriate faculty to reflect current research and practice. Date shown is that of publication or last revision. Contents of this publication may be freely reproduced for educational purposes. All other rights reserved. In each case, credit Kevin C. Dhuyvetter and Michael Langemeier, *Summer Grazing of Steers in Western Kansas*, Kansas State University, January 2012.

**Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service**

MF-1007

January 2012

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Gary Pierzynski, Interim Director.