



BEEF CATTLE GROSS MARGIN BUDGET

June 2026

Enterprise: Coastal weaners sold from self replacing herd on improved pasture

Enterprise Unit: 100 cows

				Standard Budget	Your Budget
INCOME:					
	42	steer weaners @	\$1,409.63 /hd	\$59,205	
	19	heifers weaners @	\$1,008.55 /hd	\$19,162	
	1	CFA Bull @	\$3,045.00 /hd	\$3,045	
	7	CFA cows @	\$1,902.79 /hd	\$13,320	
	14	Other culls @	\$1,902.79 /hd	\$26,639	
Total	83				
A. Total Income:				\$121,371	
VARIABLE COSTS:					
Replacements	1	Bull @	\$6,000 /hd	\$6,000	
Livestock and vet costs: see section titled beef health costs for det				6	\$4,222
Fodder crops / hay / grain					\$0
Drought feeding costs.					\$0
Pasture maintenance (173 Ha of improved pastures)					\$17,192
Livestock selling cost (see assumptions on next page)					10936.232
B. Total Variable Costs:				\$38,350	
GROSS MARGIN (A-B)				\$83,021	
GROSS MARGIN/COW				\$830.21	
GROSS MARGIN/DSE*				\$60.07	
GROSS MARGIN/HA				\$479.89	

Change in gross margin (\$/cow) for change in price &/or the weight of sale stock

(Note: Table assumes that the price and weight of other stock changes in the same proportion as steers. As an example if steer sale price falls to 522c/kg and steer weight to 240 kg, gross margin would fall to \$698 per cow. This assumes that price and weight of all other sale stock falls by the same percentage.

Liveweight (kg's) of Stock sold		Steer sale price cents/kg live				
		502	522	542	562	582
Steer wt.						
-40 kgs	220	568.486149	609	649	689	730
-20 kgs	240	656	698	740	782	823
0	260	743	787	830	874	917
+20 kgs	280	831	876	921	966	1011
+40 kgs	300	918	965	1011	1058	1104

GM \$ per Cow

An increase of 5% in weaning percentage increases gross margin per cow by \$54.33

Assumptions

Coastal weaners sold from self replacing herd on improved pasture

Enterprise unit is 100 cows weighing on average 540 kg
Weaning rate: 84% , conception rate 90%

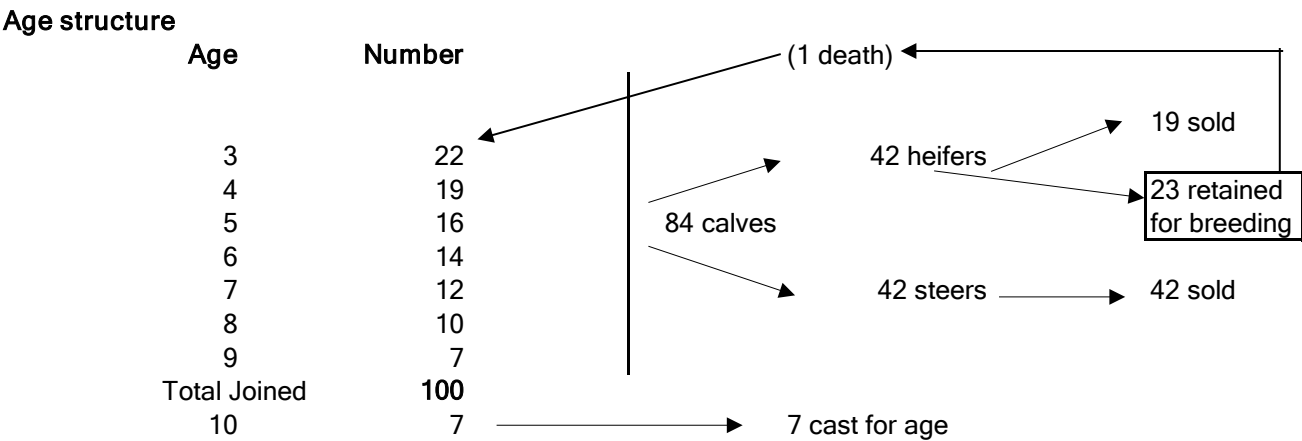
Sales		
Steers sold at 8 months	260 kg	@542c/kg live weight
Heifers sold at 8 months	230 kg	@439c/kg live weight
23 heifers retained for replacement.		
Cull cows cast for age at 10 years	250 kg	@761c/kg dressed weight
100% of empty cows culled at weaning	"	" "
3% cows culled for other reasons	"	" "
Bulls run at 3% & sold after 3 years use	440 kg	@692c/kg dressed weight

Selling costs include: Commission 5%, yard dues \$8/hd, MLA levy \$5/hd, average freight cost to saleyards \$12/hd, NLIS tag @ \$3.60 for all sale cattle.

Cows: age at first calf : 36 months

Mortality rate of adult stock: 2%

The average feed requirement of a cow + followers is rated at 2.39 LSU or16.49 dse's*. This is an average figure and will vary during the year. Note that replacement heifers are assumed joined in the second year and this adds to the dse rating of this enterprise.



Marketing Information:

Mixed sex store weaners sold in Autumn for further backgrounding prior to feedlot entry with some at suitable liveweights for feeder steer/heifer for pasture or grain finishing.
Price for cull heifers varies according to breed.

Production Information:

Pasture maintenance cost will vary depending on stage of improvement, pasture degradation, rainfall and soil type.