

Stocker Budget: 200-head

No Wintering

Bought in Spring & Sold in Fall

Ben Eborn



Background and Assumptions

University of Idaho costs and returns estimates use economic costs—all resources are valued based on market price or opportunity cost. This budget presents typical costs and returns per head for a 200-head stocker operation.

Livestock Investment

Yearling steers are purchased at about 600 pounds in mid-March. Average daily gain for the period March 15 through September 30 is 1.4 pounds. The steers are marketed at the end of September.

Summer Feeding

Steers are fed alfalfa hay for about 2 weeks before they are turned out on grass. Summer forage sources are deeded spring range and high mountain pasture. On about March 30, the cattle are trucked to deeded spring range where they graze until May 15. Then they are trucked to summer pasture where they graze until the end of September. Monthly feed quantities are listed in Table 3.

Other Costs

Hauling costs are included in the budget to cover trucking to spring range and summer pasture. A miscellaneous cost covers any additional handling, vaccinations, etc. Marketing costs are set at 2.5 percent of gross value to cover “pencil shrink.” Veterinary expenses include vaccinations, implants and parasite control.

Budget Format

In addition to the Background and Assumptions pages, this publication has three tables presenting a variety of costs and returns information.

Table 1 shows both expected revenue and expenses. Operating expenses are those that typically vary with the level of production and involve inputs that are used in a single production cycle. There are no ownership expenses associated with this budget.

Table 2 is a monthly summary of the cash flow of revenues and expenses based on when the operation occurs and when inputs are purchased.

Table 3 is a monthly summary of feed requirements.

University of Idaho
Extension

Table 1: Stocker Budget, 200 Head - 2018

EBB-ST3-18

Bought in Spring & Sold in Fall

No. of Head: 200

	Weight Each	Unit	Total Number of Head or Units	Price or Cost/Unit	Total Value	Value or Cost/Head	Your Value
GROSS RETURNS							
Steers	875	lbs	198	1.35	233,888	1,169.44	
TOTAL GROSS RETURNS					\$233,888	\$1,169.44	
OPERATING COSTS							
Purchased Steers	600	lbs	200	1.65	198,000	990.00	
Alfalfa Hay		ton	22	150.00	3,300	16.50	
Private Range		head	300	16.00	4,800	24.00	
Pasture		head	900	18.00	16,200	81.00	
Salt/Mineral		cwt	12	25.00	300	1.50	
Hauling		head	200	10.00	2,000	10.00	
Veterinary		head	200	4.75	950	4.75	
Hired Labor		hour	20	17.50	350	1.75	
Marketing		head	198	29.24	5,789	28.94	
Miscellaneous		head	200	10.00	2,000	10.00	
Interest on Operating Capital		\$	116,844	7.00%	8,179	40.90	
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS					\$241,868	\$1,209.34	
NET RETURNS ABOVE OPERATING COSTS					(\$7,980)	-\$39.90	

Table 2: Monthly Summary of Returns and Expenses.

EBB-ST3-20

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Value
Production:													
Steers									233,888				233,888
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	233,888	0	0	0	233,888
Operating Inputs:													
Purchased Steers			198,000										198,000
Alfalfa Hay			3,300										3,300
Private Range				3,200	1,600								4,800
Pasture					1,800	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600				16,200
Salt/Mineral				50	50	50	50	50	50				300
Hauling				1,000		1,000							2,000
Veterinary			950										950
Hired Labor			350										350
Marketing									5,789				5,789
Miscellaneous			500	500	500	500							2,000
Interest on Operating Capital									8,179				8,179
Total Costs	0	0	203,100	4,750	3,950	5,150	3,650	3,650	9,439	0	0	0	241,868
Net Returns	0	0	-203,100	-4,750	-3,950	-5,150	-3,650	-3,650	224,449	0	0	0	-7,980

Table 3: Monthly Feed Requirements.

Feed	Units	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alfalfa Hay	ton			22									
Private Range	head				200	100							
Pasture	head					100	200	200	200	200			
Salt/Mineral	cwt				2	2	2	2	2	2			

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