

Monthly Cattle Feeding Returns in Iowa

Table 1. Ten-year summary of estimated returns to finishing steer calves in Iowa (\$ per head), by sale month

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average
January	\$29.48	-\$6.19	-\$312.09	\$203.95	\$206.14	-\$480.56	\$21.02	\$21.93	\$26.61	\$15.44	-\$27.43
February	56.00	13.01	-343.95	231.29	45.16	-468.13	45.18	85.39	55.99	32.40	-24.77
March	123.03	100.03	-84.45	276.91	30.45	-290.13	221.51	52.93	62.14	-55.69	43.67
April	144.72	-25.18	-142.32	269.11	-49.93	-355.02	219.35	54.55	83.84	-215.44	-1.63
May	11.87	-22.61	-184.85	191.96	-86.67	-249.18	407.51	5.48	-32.74	-50.02	-0.92
June	-8.50	-56.82	-232.57	215.54	-229.97	-171.89	373.00	-101.96	-100.61	-144.67	-45.84
July	11.29	-191.70	-232.93	328.76	-269.44	-143.68	239.27	-103.69	-30.28	-168.76	-56.12
August	-44.43	-172.00	-210.14	289.19	-295.31	-60.90	68.96	-157.39	-90.56	-95.99	-76.86
September	-61.34	-219.82	-201.05	246.69	-449.56	-277.98	-25.20	-173.87	-227.79	-164.38	-155.43
October	-26.51	-302.24	-88.62	327.91	-415.35	-340.75	41.21	-205.03	-172.60	-151.65	-133.36
November	-12.11	-277.20	-9.46	351.34	-513.71	-285.88	108.40	-158.03	-120.02	-111.36	-102.80
December	<u>-53.01</u>	<u>-292.25</u>	<u>28.37</u>	<u>260.85</u>	<u>-536.56</u>	<u>-114.76</u>	<u>27.30</u>	<u>-55.27</u>	<u>-73.39</u>	<u>-92.30</u>	<u>-90.10</u>
Average	\$14.21	-\$121.08	-\$167.84	\$266.13	-\$213.73	-\$269.91	\$145.63	-\$61.25	-\$51.62	-\$100.20	-\$55.97

	Months of		Range	Months	
	Month sold	Profit			Loss
During the 2011-2020 period, the range in profits was from -\$536.56 to \$407.51. During this period, 38.3% of the months were profitable and 61.7% of the months were unprofitable.	January	70%	30%	Profit over \$250	7.5%
	February	80%	20%	Profit \$200 to \$250	6.7%
	March	70%	30%	Profit \$150 to \$200	0.8%
	April	50%	50%	Profit \$100 to \$150	3.3%
	May	40%	60%	Profit \$50 to \$100	6.7%
	June	20%	80%	Profit \$0 to \$50	13.3%
	July	30%	70%	Loss \$0 to -\$50	10.0%
	August	20%	80%	Loss -\$50 to -\$100	11.7%
	September	10%	90%	Loss -\$100 to -\$150	7.5%
	October	20%	80%	Loss -\$150 to -\$200	9.2%
	November	20%	80%	Loss -\$200 to -\$250	8.3%
	December	30%	70%	Loss over -\$250	15.0%

The assumptions used in computing the returns are outlined in the [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Estimated Livestock Returns](http://www.econ.iastate.edu/estimated-returns), www.econ.iastate.edu/estimated-returns.

Table 2. Ten-year summary of estimated returns to finishing yearling steers in Iowa (\$ per head), by sale month

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average
January	\$38.64	\$12.76	-\$94.89	\$182.69	\$42.80	-\$359.03	\$42.97	\$66.87	\$4.26	\$106.94	\$4.40
February	60.37	57.28	-126.61	153.10	-80.11	-288.50	133.81	103.46	16.15	13.48	4.24
March	145.78	56.64	-147.81	180.95	-143.14	-97.52	308.71	42.03	48.56	-80.84	31.34
April	163.42	-44.50	-101.88	208.30	-100.30	-49.80	370.35	-34.17	118.57	-239.09	29.09
May	-0.18	-61.00	-103.94	176.42	-144.07	113.34	415.46	-46.61	22.53	-61.96	31.00
June	-77.61	-122.62	-154.88	177.62	-148.63	30.59	280.32	-97.01	-39.71	-183.28	-33.52
July	-74.29	-249.99	-111.45	264.55	-90.49	-44.61	197.96	-91.30	-29.64	-183.15	-41.24
August	-72.65	-224.20	-37.45	245.82	-152.08	-105.50	71.46	-92.59	-71.44	-62.26	-50.09
September	-95.22	-154.38	-21.20	218.05	-387.97	-175.95	-40.84	-91.31	-227.80	24.57	-95.21
October	3.43	-191.73	53.20	269.48	-470.52	-214.45	-73.82	-27.19	-116.67	-33.54	-80.18
November	66.38	-187.44	76.96	248.49	-497.18	-139.91	24.78	-51.58	-1.18	-25.91	-48.66
December	17.56	-40.44	56.81	41.47	-529.76	3.86	7.17	-54.97	43.32	-46.43	-50.14
Average	\$14.64	-\$95.80	-\$59.43	\$197.24	-\$225.12	-\$110.62	\$144.86	-\$31.20	-\$19.42	-\$64.29	-\$24.91

	Months of		Range	Months	
	Month sold	Profit			Loss
During the 2011-2020 period, the range in profits was from -\$529.76 to \$415.46.	January	80%	20%	Profit over \$250	5.0%
	February	70%	30%	Profit \$200 to \$250	3.3%
During this period, 42.5% of the months were profitable and 57.5% of the months were unprofitable.	March	60%	40%	Profit \$150 to \$200	5.8%
	April	40%	60%	Profit \$100 to \$150	5.0%
	May	40%	60%	Profit \$50 to \$100	7.5%
	June	30%	70%	Profit \$0 to \$50	15.8%
	July	20%	80%	Loss \$0 to -\$50	14.2%
	August	20%	80%	Loss -\$50 to -\$100	16.7%
	September	20%	80%	Loss -\$100 to -\$150	10.8%
	October	30%	70%	Loss -\$150 to -\$200	6.7%
	November	40%	60%	Loss -\$200 to -\$250	4.2%
	December	60%	40%	Loss over -\$250	5.0%

The assumptions used in computing the returns are outlined in the [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Estimated Livestock Returns](http://www.econ.iastate.edu/estimated-returns), www.econ.iastate.edu/estimated-returns.

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