



MSU Agriculture Innovation Day

Focus on Forages and the Future



College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Grass-fed Beef – Research and Experience

Production Costs Per Head-Grass-fed Beef 2014 – 2016

	(\$)
	Cost/year
Calf Costs	\$ 953.75
Labor Costs	-
Hay Period	\$ 11.00
Pasture Period	\$ 38.00
Land Costs	
Pasture Rent (1 steer/1.5 ac)	\$ 105.00
Fence, Electric and Water ⁴	\$ 9.00
Feed	
Alfalfa Hay (winter)	\$ 353.35
Alfalfa Hay (summer feed buffer)	\$ 64.73
Sorghum/Sundan grass	\$ 20.00
Mineral Cost	\$ 11.00
Irrigation Costs	
\$7.50/ac in	\$ 17.00
Health	\$ 6.67
Machinery	\$ 20.00
transportation to processing	\$ 44.46
Misc/Supplies	\$ 15.00
Operating Cost	\$ 1,668.96
Interest	\$ 83.45
Death	\$ 41.38
Total Average Costs	\$ 1,793.79
Total Average Gross Income	\$ 2,069.17
Average Net Income	\$ 275.38