

Farm Characteristics

CA-SK-12

Farm Description	A cow-calf and backgrounding operation with 125 cows, utilizing predominantly homegrown feed.
Winter Feeding Ration (lbs/cow/day as fed)	30 days of swath grazing, followed by 151 days on greenfeed (35 lb) and hay (5 lb)
Retained Ownership/Replacement Ration (lb/head/day as fed)	Backgrounders: 107 days on hay (23 lb) and pellets

Disclaimer:

This benchmark is based on 3 farms of data; outliers were excluded as required. Canfax Research Services (CRS) tries to provide quality information, but we make no claims, promises, or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information. CRS does not guarantee and accepts no legal liability arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of any material contained in our publications. Reproduction and/or electronic transmission of this publication, in whole or in part, is strictly forbidden without written consent from CRS.

Environment	
Average Annual Temperature	1.5° C
Average Annual Precipitation (mm)	400-500
Ecoregion	Aspen Parkland
Stocking Rate (Animal Unit days per acre)	55
Fertilize Hay (yes/no)	No
Fertilize Pasture (yes/no)	No
Typical Hay Yield (tonnes/acre)	1.1
Grassland Acres (owned+rented)	694
Crop Acres (includes hay) (owned+rented)	371
Bush and other acres	0

Physical Performance Indicators	
Breed	Simmental, Angus
Cow:Bull Ratio	21:1
Bull Culling Rate (%)	17%
Mature Cow Weight (lb)	1,450
Heifer Retention for a steady herd (%)	6%
Cow Death Loss (%)	0.3%
Cow Culling Rate (%)	5.5%
Calves alive after 24hr/100 Cows exposed	95
Calf Death Loss (%) 24 hr to weaning	1%
Calves weaned per 100 cows exposed	94
Total Liveweight Sold per Cow (lb)	621
Weaning Weight (lb)	586
205 day adjusted Weaning Weight (lb)	594
Average Daily Gain pre-weaning (lb)	2.48
Weaning Weight as % of Cow Weight	40%

Production System	
Herd size	125
Days on field feeding (e.g. swath grazing)	30
Days supplemented on pasture	0
Days on full winter feed	151
Calving Start date	April 12
Weaning date	November 16
Sale date	March 03
Retained ownership	Background
% of feed purchased	1.2%
% of land in crops	35%
Annual sales Retained Cattle (head)	46
Placement weight (lbs)	588
Sale Weight (lbs)	723-810
Days on feed	107
Days on grass	0

Footnotes:

Cost of Production: Cash Cost + Depreciation + Opportunity Costs

Cash Costs = Cash cost for purchased feed, fertiliser, seeds, fuel, maintenance, land rents, animal purchases, interest on liabilities, wages paid, veterinary costs plus medicine, water, insurance, accounting, etc (excl. Tax)

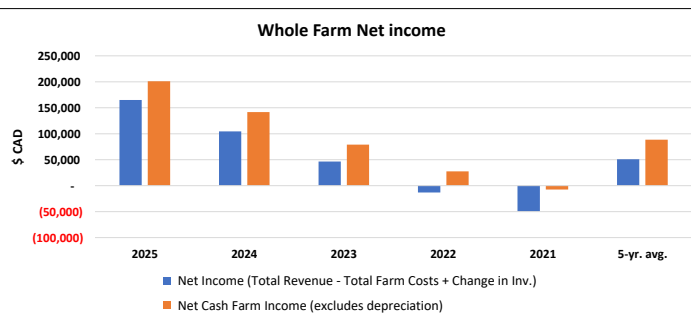
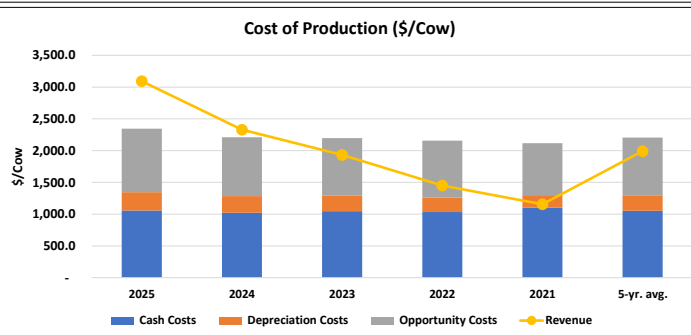
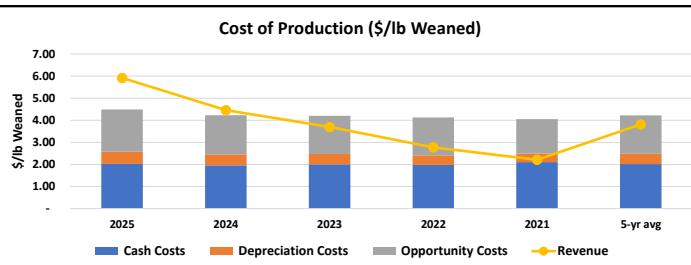
Depreciation = Linear depreciation on machinery and buildings, calculated on replacement values

Opportunity Costs = Calculated cost for using own production factors like labour (family working hours * wage for qualified local labour, land (own land * regional land rents) and capital (non-land equity * long-term government bonds interest rate)

Whole Farm Profitability = Market returns (+ coupled payments) (+ decoupled payments) - whole-farm costs +/- changes in inventory +/- capital gains/losses.

Whole Farm Net Income = Whole farm profitability + depreciation + changes in inventory + capital gains/losses. Known as: 'Net farm income' (Agri Profits, 2018)

Revenue = sales of calves, cull cows, breeding stock, government payments and other revenue applicable to the specific enterprise



Whole Farm Overview Page

Overview							
Operation Maturity	Medium						
Herd Size	125						
Paid Labour (livestock only) (hours)	-						
Unpaid Labour (livestock only) (hours)	4,696						
Average wages - paid and unpaid (\$/hr)	22.65						
Revenue		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Market Revenue	5-yr avg	498,250	402,896	326,995	231,512	192,205	330,372
Cow-Calf	70%	386,536	291,183	241,507	168,792	131,977	243,999
Cash Crops	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retained Ownership	25%	111,714	111,714	85,488	62,720	60,228	86,373
Government Payments	1%	-	-	-	12,500	12,500	5,000
Other Farm Revenue †	3%	11,147	11,095	11,083	11,083	11,083	11,098
Total Revenue	100%	509,397	413,991	338,078	255,095	215,789	346,470
Change in Inventory		12,292	10,345	12,054	-	(4,430)	6,052
Expenses		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Depreciation		48,641	47,343	44,742	40,806	37,247	43,756
Machinery		30,558	29,797	28,136	25,085	22,546	27,225
Buildings		18,083	17,546	16,606	15,721	14,700	16,531
Quota econ. Accounting		-	-	-	-	-	-
Overhead costs		57,986	58,407	61,139	58,784	49,944	57,252
Land improvement		2,131	2,109	1,963	1,804	1,719	1,945
Machinery Maintenance		13,291	13,188	11,671	10,328	10,211	11,738
Buildings Maintenance		4,633	4,569	4,506	4,306	3,948	4,392
Contract labour		1,022	1,022	1,022	1,056	1,002	1,025
Diesel, Gasoline, Natural Gas		10,621	10,702	11,126	13,747	9,682	11,176
Electricity		6,476	7,144	11,332	7,837	4,754	7,509
Water		-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm insurance		7,116	7,116	7,116	7,350	6,978	7,135
Disability and accident insurance		145	145	145	150	142	146
Farm taxes and duties		3,824	3,824	3,824	3,950	3,750	3,835
Advisor costs		81	81	81	83	79	81
Accountant & legal fees		1,888	1,888	1,888	1,950	1,851	1,893
Phone & utilities		4,923	4,823	4,710	4,533	4,246	4,647
Other overhead costs		1,834	1,796	1,754	1,689	1,581	1,731
Wages, rent and interest payments		35,423	38,915	43,448	42,848	40,450	40,217
Paid Labour		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total land rents		9,892	9,212	8,315	7,397	6,759	8,315
Total interest on debt		25,531	29,703	35,133	35,451	33,691	31,902
Cow-Calf		30,494	28,056	25,231	22,784	46,076	30,528
Animal purchases		12,581	10,452	7,936	6,500	6,500	8,794
Purchased feed		8,290	8,126	8,000	7,272	31,244	12,586
Other fixed and var. costs *		9,623	9,478	9,295	9,012	8,332	9,148
Retained Ownership		154,177	117,137	98,326	70,252	58,386	99,656
Animal purchases		148,561	110,737	92,280	64,146	49,902	93,125
Purchased feed		3,300	4,125	3,822	3,947	6,470	4,333
Other fixed and var. costs *		2,316	2,275	2,224	2,160	2,014	2,198
Crop and forage		30,159	29,957	30,831	32,890	28,357	30,439
Seed		9,150	9,476	9,391	8,175	8,422	8,923
Fertilizer		12,022	11,553	11,633	12,639	10,997	11,769
Herbicide		1,269	1,258	1,808	2,248	2,036	1,724
Fungicide & Insecticide		-	-	-	-	-	-
Irrigation		-	-	-	-	-	-
Contract labour		-	-	-	-	-	-
Fuel costs (crop & forage)		6,719	6,691	7,043	8,908	6,040	7,080
Other crop and forage		999	978	956	920	861	943
Total Farm Costs (excludes unpaid labour)		356,880	319,815	303,716	268,364	260,460	301,847
Cash Costs (Total Farm Costs - Depreciation)		308,239	272,472	258,973	227,558	223,214	258,091
Depreciation & Opportunity Costs (including unpaid labour)		154,971	153,674	151,073	147,137	143,577	150,086
Total Economic Costs (cash, depr, opportunity)		463,211	426,145	410,046	374,695	366,791	408,178
Profits		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Net Income (Total Revenue - Total Farm Costs + Change in Inv.)		164,809	104,521	46,416	(13,269)	(49,102)	50,675
Net Cash Farm Income (excludes depreciation)		201,094	141,508	79,105	27,537	(7,425)	88,364

† Other Farm Revenue includes: Other enterprises, capital gains and losses as well as calculated interest on savings based on the models previous year profits.

*Other fixed and var. costs includes: veterinary, medicine, maintenance and spare parts, and other/miscellaneous



Cow-Calf Enterprise (\$/Cow)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5 yr. avg.
No. of Cows*	125	125	125	125	125	125
Average male and female calf price (\$/head)	3,222	2,401	1,998	1,388	1,080	2,018
REVENUE						
Cow Calf	3,092	2,329	1,932	1,450	1,156	1,992
Cull animals and slaughter receipts	222	189	148	110	91	152
Breeding livestock receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calf Sales and transfer to retained ownership enterprise	2,871	2,140	1,785	1,241	965	1,800
Government payments	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	40.0
Other returns	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Cow-Calf Revenue	3,092	2,329	1,932	1,450	1,156	1,992
VARIABLE COSTS						
Animal purchases	100.6	83.6	63.5	52.0	52.0	70
Feed (purchase feed, fertiliser, seed, pesticides)	268.4	265.6	267.7	262.3	440.2	301
Machinery (maintenance, depreciation, contractor)	266.0	241.6	225.3	203.0	179.2	223
Fuel, energy, lubricants, water	148.6	145.0	173.4	182.8	119.1	154
Vet & medicine	28.4	28.2	27.8	26.9	24.7	27
Other inputs cow calf enterprise	100.3	94.8	93.1	91.2	83.2	93
Labour						
Paid Labour	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unpaid Labour	653.9	605.6	608.7	634.2	574.3	615
Total Variable Costs	1,566.4	1,464.4	1,459.5	1,452.3	1,472.7	1,483
CAPITAL COSTS						
Insurance, taxes	72.2	69.0	69.2	71.8	66.4	70
Buildings (maintenance, depreciation)	134.7	121.4	116.5	111.5	99.0	117
Land Cost	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rented Land	75.4	70.2	63.4	56.4	51.5	63
Own Land	319.0	303.0	279.5	255.7	243.0	280
Capital Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities	151.3	163.1	193.9	201.6	184.2	179
Own capital	26.9	19.8	15.5	7.2	0.0	14
Total Capital Costs	779.5	746.5	737.9	704.2	644.2	722
COSTS						
Cash Costs	1,057.6	1,022.6	1,046.9	1,032.2	1,101.8	1,052
Depreciation Costs	288.4	259.9	246.9	227.1	197.8	244
Opportunity Costs	999.9	928.5	903.6	897.1	817.4	909
Total Production Costs	2,345.9	2,210.9	2,197.4	2,156.5	2,116.9	2,206
Profits	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Short-term profit (cash costs)	2,034.7	1,306.9	885.2	418.1	54.0	940
Medium-term profit (cash + depreciation)	1,746.3	1,047.0	638.3	191.0	(143.7)	696
Long-term profit (cash + depreciation + opportunity)	746.4	118.5	(265.4)	(706.2)	(961.1)	(214)

*Model maintains a stable herd size

Costs and revenue are reported for a calendar (e.g. January to December). It reflects revenue and expenses that a producer experiences over that period. Producers who want a cash flow analysis typically use a calendar or agricultural year. This method is often preferred by lenders when getting evaluated for a line of credit or a loan. The model maintains a stable herd, retention rates were adjusted to ensure that.

Cash Costs

Cash costs are the outlays over the course of the year, including machine repairs, paid labour, costs of feed production, and purchased feed. CDN COP Network bases cash costs on actual costs of production. Agri Profit\$ uses the market value for some cash costs, including feed.

The cost of producing the feed on-farm and the purchased feed costs as used in that year to reflect the experience and situation of producers. Production inputs, land and any purchased feeds utilized that year are included. Rations for each type of animal and inventories are used to calculate total feed requirements. Any shortfall in production are assumed to be purchased at market value. Feed rations and yields are provided "as fed" to balance the model. Below are the included costs for feed production:

Feed: Calculated as feed cost (purchase feed + fertilizer, seed and pesticides for own feed production) + machinery cost (machinery maintenance + depreciation + contractor) + fuel, energy, lubricants and water + land cost (land rents paid + opportunity cost own land)

Land: separated into owned and rented land, includes both crop and pastureland. Land costs = Rents paid + calculated land rents for own land (opportunity cost).

By using the cost of land, the advantage that mature operations have is clearly shown as their cost structure is lower when land has been fully paid off.

Allocation

Generic allocation uses percent revenues from each commodity to cover overheads and utilizes accounting data for the overhead costs. This takes the approach that overheads and fixed costs will be covered by something grown on the farm and recognizes that there are commodity price cycles where grains and livestock tend to be opposite. It is not so much concerned about each enterprise paying their way as that all overheads are covered by the mix of commodities grown. It should be recognized that as commodity prices fluctuate and revenues to each enterprise fluctuate, the shifting shares will change the cost structure for each enterprise from year to year.

Depreciation

Depreciation on buildings and machinery is a non-cash cost that reveals the ability of the farm to continue operating if an asset needs replacement.

Differences in depreciation costs between AgriProfit\$ and the CDN COP Network primarily comes from the use of specific (AgriProfit\$) versus generic (CDN COP Network) allocation. Where generic allocation results in machinery depreciation used for feed production to show up in the cow-calf enterprise as that is where revenue is generated. In contrast, specific allocation removes that cost and since feed is treated at market value, machinery depreciation for feed production is treated as a cash cost. This results in the CDN COP Network typically having lower cash costs and higher depreciation costs than what is reported in AgriProfit\$.

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Land: The Opportunity costs of land are the rents for new contracts if the farm rents out owned land. It reflects the future cost of renting land. If the producers' profits of utilizing the land outweigh the profits of renting the land, utilizing owned land for production should be preferred and vice-versa.

Labour: The opportunity costs of labour are the calculated wage for family labour, either off-farm salary or farm manager salary. It is important to note that the opportunity cost of labour reflects the income you can receive for the same type of labour.

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Unit Reported

Often cow-calf COP is expressed as dollars per cow wintered (\$/cow wintered) which adjusts the calf price per head for the number of calves sold per 100 cows. When evaluating overall cost structure to identify areas for improvement, or comparing to a benchmark, this is sufficient.

However, a per unit cost provides producers with their break-even cost, allowing them to compare with posted market prices for their calves' average weight category. This break-even price will depend on the percentage of calves weaned that year from the cow herd. The higher percent weaned, the lower per pound the break-even price will be.



Cow-Calf Enterprise (\$/lb Weaned)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5 yr. avg.
Pounds Weaned	65,295	65,295	65,295	65,295	65,295	65,295
Average male and female weaning weight (lbs)	586	586	586	586	586	586
Average male and female calf price at weaning (\$/lb)	5.49	4.09	3.41	2.37	1.84	3.44
REVENUE						
Cow Calf Operation	5.92	4.46	3.70	2.78	2.21	3.81
Cull animals and slaughter receipts	0.42	0.36	0.28	0.21	0.17	0.29
Breeding livestock receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calf Sales and transfer to retained ownership enterprise	5.50	4.10	3.42	2.38	1.85	3.45
Government payments	-	-	-	0.19	0.19	0.08
Other returns	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Cow-Calf Revenue	5.92	4.46	3.70	2.78	2.21	3.81
VARIABLE COSTS						
Animal purchases	0.19	0.16	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.13
Feed (purchase feed, fertiliser, seed, pesticides)	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.50	0.84	0.58
Machinery (maintenance, depreciation, contractor)	0.51	0.46	0.43	0.39	0.34	0.43
Fuel, energy, lubricants, water	0.28	0.28	0.33	0.35	0.23	0.29
Vet & medicine	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Other inputs cow calf enterprise	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.18
Labour						
Paid Labour	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unpaid Labour	1.25	1.16	1.17	1.21	1.10	1.18
Total Variable Costs	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
CAPITAL COSTS						
Insurance, taxes	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.13
Buildings (maintenance, depreciation)	0.26	0.23	0.22	0.21	0.19	0.22
Land Cost						
Rented Land	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.12
Owned Land	0.61	0.58	0.54	0.49	0.47	0.54
Capital Costs						
Liabilities	0.29	0.31	0.37	0.39	0.35	0.34
Own capital	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.03
Total Capital Costs	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.4
COSTS						
Cash Costs	2.02	1.96	2.00	1.98	2.11	2.01
Depreciation Costs	0.55	0.50	0.47	0.43	0.38	0.47
Opportunity Costs	1.91	1.78	1.73	1.72	1.56	1.74
Total Production Costs	4.49	4.23	4.21	4.13	4.05	4.22
Profits	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Short-term profit (cash costs)	3.90	2.50	1.69	0.80	0.10	1.80
Medium-term profit (cash + depreciation)	3.34	2.00	1.22	0.37	(0.28)	1.33
Long-term profit (cash + depreciation + opportunity)	1.43	0.23	(0.51)	(1.35)	(1.84)	(0.41)

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RETAINED OWNERSHIP		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
No. of beef cattle sold per year		46	46	46	46	46	46
<i>Note: breeding stock sales are in the cow-calf enterprise</i>							
Placement weight (lbs)	588						
Sale Weight (lbs)	723-810						
Days on Feed	107						
Average Daily Gain (lbs/day)	1.82						

REVENUE (\$/head Sold)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Market Returns from Retained Ownership	2,478.12	2,478.12	1,896.35	1,391.31	1,336.03	1,915.99
Other Returns (Government payments, by-products)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	2,478.12	2,478.12	1,896.35	1,391.31	1,336.03	1,915.99

Costs (\$/head Sold)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
VARIABLE COSTS						
Animal purchases	3,295.51	2,456.45	2,047.02	1,422.93	1,106.97	2,065.77
Feed (purchase feed, fertiliser, seed, pesticides)	79.97	98.17	91.19	93.63	149.24	102.44
Machinery (maintenance, depreciation, contractor)	236.63	280.81	252.32	209.16	210.13	237.81
Fuel, energy, lubricants, water	108.22	131.85	157.71	147.72	106.08	130.32
Vet & medicine	2.98	2.95	2.90	2.79	2.54	2.83
Other inputs	94.42	102.31	98.55	92.46	90.42	95.63
Labour						
Paid Labour	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unpaid Labour	581.73	703.89	681.70	653.46	673.32	658.82
Total Variable Costs	4,399.45	3,776.44	3,331.38	2,622.15	2,338.69	3,293.62

CAPITAL COSTS	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Insurance, taxes	42.31	50.35	48.89	47.16	48.26	47.40
Buildings (maintenance, depreciation)	119.79	141.11	130.47	114.86	116.07	124.46
Land Cost						
Rented Land	10.40	9.68	8.74	7.77	7.10	8.74
Owned Land	43.99	41.79	38.54	35.26	33.51	38.62
Capital Costs						
Liabilities	134.62	189.53	217.11	193.35	197.30	186.38
Own capital	23.11	22.04	16.34	6.50	-	13.60
Total Capital Costs	374.22	454.50	460.09	404.91	402.25	419.19

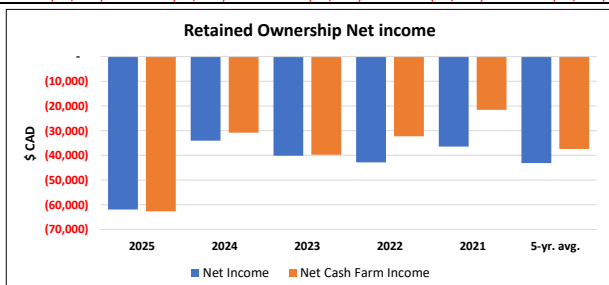
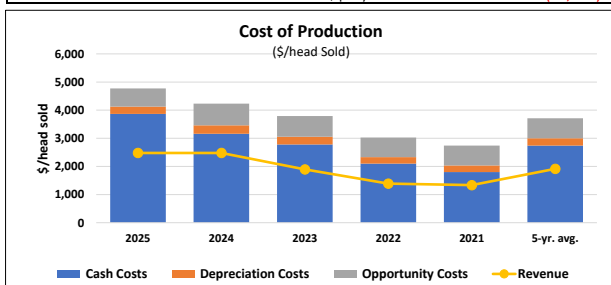
TOTAL COSTS	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Cash Costs	3,868.32	3,161.12	2,778.39	2,097.81	1,802.28	2,741.58
Depreciation Costs	256.51	302.09	276.50	234.03	231.83	260.19
Opportunity Costs	648.83	767.72	736.58	695.22	706.83	711.04
Total Production Costs (excludes own capital)	4,773.67	4,230.94	3,791.47	3,027.06	2,740.94	3,712.81

Profits	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Short-term profit (cash costs)	(1,390.21)	(683.00)	(882.04)	(706.50)	(466.25)	(825.60)
Medium-term profit (cash + depreciation)	(1,646.71)	(985.10)	(1,158.54)	(940.52)	(698.08)	(1,085.79)
Long-term profit (cash + depreciation + opportunity)	(2,295.55)	(1,752.82)	(1,895.11)	(1,635.75)	(1,404.91)	(1,796.83)

Net Income (\$/head sold)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Net Income	(1,373.71)	(755.55)	(891.14)	(950.49)	(808.76)	(955.93)
Net Cash Farm Income	(1,390.22)	(683.01)	(882.04)	(716.46)	(478.65)	(830.07)

Labour	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Paid Labour	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unpaid Labour	1,158	1,401	1,357	1,259	1,367	1,309
Return to labour input	(66.7)	(34)	(40)	(35)	(24)	(40)
Average wages (paid and calculated)	23	23	23	23	22	23

Net Income (annual total)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	5-yr. avg.
Net Income	\$ per year (61,927)	(34,060)	(40,173)	(42,848)	(36,459)	(43,093)
Net Cash Farm Income	\$ per year (62,671)	(30,790)	(39,762)	(32,298)	(21,578)	(37,420)



NOTE: Feed costs are based on cost of production if homegrown.



RETAINED OWNERSHIP	\$/lb LW Sold	\$/hd sold	\$/lb gain
REVENUE	2025	2025	2025
Market Returns from Retained Ownership	3.23	2,478.12	13.44
Other Returns (Government payments, by-products)	-	-	-
Total	3.23	2,478.12	13.44
Costs (\$/lb LW Sold)	2025	2025	2025
VARIABLE COSTS			
Animal purchases	4.29	3,295.51	17.88
Feed (purchase feed, fertiliser, seed, pesticides)	0.10	79.97	0.43
Machinery (maintenance, depreciation, contractor)	0.31	236.63	1.28
Fuel, energy, lubricants, water	0.14	108.22	0.59
Vet & medicine	0.00	2.98	0.02
Other inputs	0.12	94.42	0.51
Labour			
Paid Labour	-	-	-
Unpaid Labour	0.76	581.73	3.16
Total Variable Costs	5.73	4,399.45	23.87
CAPITAL COSTS			
Insurance, taxes	0.06	42.31	0.23
Buildings (maintenance, depreciation)	0.16	119.79	0.65
Land Cost			
Rented Land	0.01	10.40	0.06
Owned Land	0.06	43.99	0.24
Capital Costs			
Liabilities	0.18	134.62	0.73
Own capital	0.03	23.11	0.13
Total Capital Costs	0.49	374.22	2.03
TOTAL COSTS			
Cash Costs	5.03	3,868.32	20.98
Depreciation Costs	0.33	256.51	1.39
Opportunity Costs	0.84	648.83	3.52
Total Production Costs (excludes own capital)	6.21	4,773.67	25.90
Profits	2025	2025	2025
Margin over operating costs	(6.22)	(21.69)	(0.12)
Short-term profit (cash costs)	(1.81)	(1,390.21)	(7.54)
Medium-term profit (cash + depreciation)	(2.14)	(1,646.71)	(8.93)
Long-term profit (cash + depreciation + opportunity)	(2.99)	(2,295.55)	(12.45)
Net Income	2025	2025	2025
Net Income	(1.79)	(1,373.71)	(7.45)
Net Cash Farm Income	(1.81)	(1,390.22)	(7.54)

NOTE: Feed costs are based on cost of production if homegrown.