

Purchasing a Market Beef

What to Know as a Buyer

At the time of the sale, market beef will weigh between 900 and 1350 pounds with an average weight of 1325 pounds.

Market beef sell for between \$2.00 and \$4.00 a pound with an average price of \$3.30 per pound.

Processing fees (butchering, cutting, and wrapping) vary based on the butcher. The estimated processing total is \$875. For a precise amount, contact one of the suggested butchers.

After butchering and processing, market beef yield about 30% (+/- 10%) meat. If the average market beef weighs 1325 pounds, the yield will be about 400+ pounds of meat.

400+ pounds of meat will need about 14 to 16 cubic feet of freezer space.

Below is a summary of what to expect when buying a market beef at the Ramona Junior Fair. (Please note, this information is an estimate and actual numbers may vary.)

A 1325 pound market beef is purchased at the price of \$3.30 per pound for a total of \$4373. After the butcher's processing fee of \$875, the total is \$5248. By dividing \$5248 by the weight of the meat taken home (400+ pounds) the price of \$13.21 is paid per pound for this high-quality, hand-raised meat. In the process, you have helped a young person complete their project, reach a hard-earned goal, and possibly make a profit to help fund future projects. Also, because you are buying through the Ramona Junior Fair (a 501 c3 non-profit), you can consult with your tax preparer and possibly receive a tax write-off for any amount that you paid that is over the current market price. It's a win-win situation for both parties!

What Does an Exhibitor Put in to Raising a Market Beef?

The animal receives 8 to 9 months of hand feeding, exercise, and care.

One market beef is purchased for \$1800 to \$2500.

The cost of feed to finish a market beef is \$1500 to \$2000.

The total estimated investment into raising a market beef is \$3300 to \$4500.

With a conservative average financial investment of \$3900 into a market beef at an average weight of 1325 pounds, the breakeven point for the kids, when selling through the auction, is \$2.95 per pound.