

Estimated Annual Cow Costs for Nebraska 2025

Mature cows calve March/April, 2-yr-old heifers calve February 10				
Wean November 1, 40% of heifer calves kept as replacements				
FEED COSTS: Mature Cows (84% of herd)	Quantity	Price	Cost/Cow	Your Cost
Crop Residue/Range Nov 1 - Feb 28	4 mo	\$30/mo	\$120.00	
Protein Supplement Jan 1 - Feb 28 (alfalfa hay)	200 lb	\$130/ton	\$13.00	
Pasture Mar 1 - May 15 (calving/pairs)	2.5 mo	\$20/mo	\$50.00	
Alfalfa and grass/millet/sorghum sudan hay	1.2 ton	\$190/ton	\$108.00	
Pasture May 15 - Oct 31	5.5 mo	\$60/mo	\$330.00	
Salt and Mineral for 12 months	70 lb	\$0.50/lb	\$35.00	
Total			\$656.00	
FEED COSTS: 2-Yr-Old Heifers (16% of herd)				
Crop Residue/Range Nov 1 - Feb 1	3 mo	\$30/mo	\$90.00	
Protein Supplement Dec 15 - Feb 1 (alfalfa hay)	250 lb	\$130/ton	\$16.25	
Pasture Feb 1 - May 15 (calving/pairs)	3.5 mo	\$20/mo	\$70.00	
Alfalfa and grass/millet/sorghum sudan hay	1.7 ton	\$100/ton	\$170.00	
Pasture May 15 - Oct 31	5.5 mo	\$60/mo	\$330.00	
Salt and Mineral for 12 months	70 lb	\$0.50/lb	\$35.00	
Total			\$711.25	
FEED COSTS: Replacement Heifers (20% of cow herd kept and exposed to breed)				
Crop Residue/Aftermath Nov 1 - Feb 15	3.5 mo	\$15/mo	\$52.50	
Protein Supplement Dec 15 - Feb 15 (Dist. Grns)	300 lb	\$160/ton	\$24.00	
Growing Ration Dry Lot Feb 15 - May 15	3 mo	\$40/mo	\$120.00	
Pasture May 15 - Oct 31	5.5 mo	\$40/mo	209.00	
Salt and Mineral for 12 months	60 lb	\$.50/lb	\$30.00	
Total			\$435.50	
Estimated Annual Bull Feed Costs (1 bull to 30 females)			\$650.00	
TOTAL FEED COSTS/Cow Unit (0.84×mature cows + 0.16×2yr-olds + 0.20×replacements)			\$773.60	
Other Cash Costs (Vet/Med, Equipment/Facilities, Marketing, Interest, etc.)			\$200.00	
Labor	5.5 hr/yr	\$27.00/hr	\$148.00	
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS			\$1,121.60	
Ownership Costs				
Interest on Cattle Value (average value over life)	3000	6.0%	\$180.00	
Purchase of bull every 4 years for 30 cows	\$6,500/120		\$54.17	
Taxes and Insurance Buildings and Equipment			\$30.00	
Equipment and Facilities Depreciation			\$70.00	
TOTAL OWNERSHIP COSTS			\$334.17	
TOTAL COSTS EXCLUDING CULL CREDITS			\$1,455.77	
Cull Credits				
Cull cow (16% replace rate) - death loss (1.5%) =	1,300 lb	\$1.50	\$282.75	
Cull heifer (4% opens) - death loss (0.3%) =	850 lb	\$3.00	\$94.35	
Cull bull (1% replace rate) - death loss (0.05%)	1,800 lb	\$1.80	\$27.36	
TOTAL CULL CREDITS			\$404.46	
Capital Cost of Rep. Heifer Calf at Weaning	20% Rep. Rate	\$2050	\$410.00	
	Net Capital Cost		\$5.54	
	NET COST PER COW		\$1,461.31	
Cost/calf weaned/cow exposed at 80% = \$1,827; 85%=\$1,719; 90%=\$1,624				