

**2026 County Fair – Beef Pricing Grid and CBCIA Gold Seal & Carcass of Merit Criteria
Questions – Contact – Amanda McKeith at amckeith@csufresno.edu**

USDA Yield Grade Equation = $2.5 + (2.5*FT) + (0.2*KPH) + (0.0038*HCW) - (0.32*REA)$

FT – Fat Thickness

KPH – Kidney, pelvic, heart fat percentage

HCW – Hot Carcass Weight

REA – Ribeye Area

Yield Grade is then adjusted for fat over the lower rib, round, and chuck as the fat is often torn where fat thickness is measured

SHORT CUT USDA YIELD GRADE EQUATION → Yield Grade = Adj. PYG + REA Adj. + %KPH Adj

REA Adj. – Ribeye area adjusted = (Required ribeye area – actual ribeye area)*0.3

%KPH Adj – Percent Kidney, pelvic, heart fat adjustment = 3.5% is 0 adjustment, for every 0.5% above add 0.1, for every 0.5% below subtract 0.1

Determining Grid Price –

- 1) Start with Base Price
- 2) Add premium or subtract discounts based on Quality Grade Characteristics
- 3) Add premiums or subtract discounts based on Final Yield Grade
- 4) Subtract discounts based on light or heavy carcass weights
- 5) Subtract discounts based on B maturity or older

Low Choice, Yield Grade 3 (Base Price) = \$378.12

Quality Grade

Prime = +\$11.89

Top Choice (High or Average) = +\$4.25

Select = -\$7.00

Standard = -\$32.14

Dairy Type = -\$2.64

Dark Cutter/Blood Splash = -\$39.17

B Maturity or older (B, C, D, E) = -\$13.50

Hardbone (C, D, E Maturity) = -\$34.80

Yield Grade

1.0-1.9 = +\$3.35

2.0-2.4 = +\$1.77

2.5-2.9 = +\$1.38

4.0-4.9 = -\$12.82

5.0-5.9 = -\$18.55

Weight (in pounds)

400-499 = -\$29.29

500-549 = -\$22.64

550-599 = -\$11.57

901-1000 = -\$1.07

1001-1050 = -\$4.29

over 1050 = -\$15.45

USDA Marbling

Sl - Slight

Sm - Small

Mt - Modest

Md - Moderate

SlAb – Slightly Abundant

Dark Cutters may be discounted 1 full quality grade

Ties for carcass price were broke first by: 1) Final Yield Grade 2) Quality Grade/Marbling Score

3) Ribeye size in relation to HCW 4) Adjusted PYG 5) Dressing percentage

Carcass of Merit (CM)

Hot Carcass weight

600-1000 lbs.

USDA Yield Grade

Below 4.00 (3.99 or below)

USDA Quality Grade

Low Choice or Higher

Gold Seal (GS)

650-900 lbs

Below 3.0 (2.99 or below)

Average Choice or Higher

Ribeye Area 10-16 sq in

DARK CUTTERS AND BLOOD SPLASH NOT ELIGIBLE FOR GS or CM