



# BEEFONOMICS CATTLE MARKET UPDATE

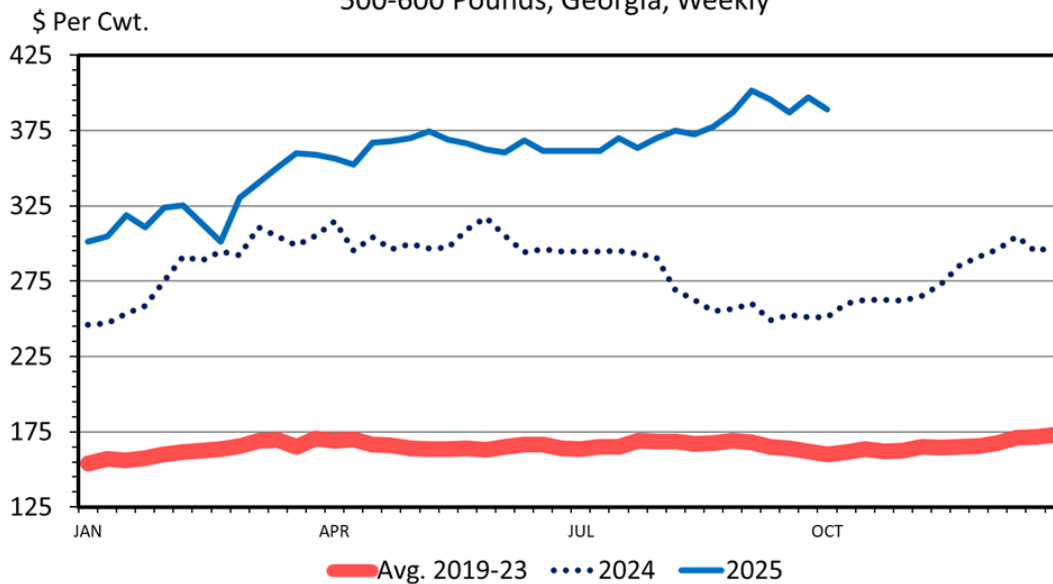
## FALL MARKET UPDATE

William Secor, Ph.D.

*Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics*

### MED. & LRG. #1 & 2 STEER CALF PRICES

500-600 Pounds, Georgia, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS, Compiled by LMIC  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

Beef cattle prices remain at staggering levels. While slaughter steer prices have come down from recent highs in late summer, feeder cattle prices remain elevated. These strong feeder cattle prices, particularly at lighter weights defy seasonal trends that typically see lows placed in the fall. There is time yet for prices to fall. However, from these heights, a drop would likely be only relative to prices earlier this year.

October 2025



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Beef Team

In Georgia, feeder cattle prices were up 40–60% at the start of October (e.g., see Figure 1). Total feeder cattle receipts across the country are lower as expected on lower inventories at the start of the year. However, the data is noisy, and this is not the only driver of strong prices. Beef demand continues to play its part. A beef demand index indicator from LMIC suggests that beef demand in the first and second quarters of 2025 were at record levels.

At this stage, all eyes turn to herd rebuilding. Cow culling dropped again in 2025 significantly. Indicators of heifer retention suggest some fewer heifers are moving off farms, but any retention is very limited. Combined, these suggest that cattle inventory at the start of 2026 may be just about even with 2025. However, heifer retention does not appear to be high enough to support herd growth next year. With this in mind, if consumers stick with beef, high beef cattle prices are likely to remain for the time being.



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**EXTENSION**