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and

Farm Service
Agency

and

Farm Production and
Conservation
Business Center

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Veterinary Services Indemnity Table for 2026



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Acronyms

APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
AMS	Agricultural Marketing Service
CEAH	Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health
CWT	Hundredweight
ERS	Economic Research Service
FPAC–BC	Farm Production and Conservation Business Center
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FMV	Fair Market Value
LIP	Livestock Indemnity Program
LMIC	Livestock Marketing Information Center
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VS	Veterinary Services

Definitions

Indemnity	Monetary payment(s) made to a livestock owner for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government; and animals and animal products taken/destroyed to control/eradicate a disease.
Valuation Method	The method used to estimate the monetary value of an asset. Methods include establishment of indemnity tables, appraisal evaluation, and Farm Service Agency (FSA) historical evaluation.

Executive Summary

This document contains indemnity values for animal agricultural commodities intended for use across U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies or business units that deal with indemnity programs. These entities include the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the USDA Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC–BC).

The values calculated from government data sources represent harmonized methods at the USDA level. Use of these values by APHIS–VS, FSA, and FPAC–BC will vary according to program differences across these agencies and business units. In addition, values based on five-year Census of Agriculture (Census) surveys, limited industry surveys, and publicly available, nationally representative online sources are included for USDA–APHIS–VS programs.

Introduction

1. Background and Goals

APHIS provides indemnity as incentive for producers to report disease and is authorized by Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR). In 2019, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) began work on a new approach to indemnity value determination for animals. This effort was initiated to meet the following goals:

- Harmonize valuation approaches across U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies.
- Address stakeholder requests for a more simplified and unified approach.
- Develop an approach that uses currently available vetted data.
- Simplify and document the methods used to calculate values.

To achieve these goals, economists in the USDA developed harmonized methods to determine values for animal indemnity. The result of this effort was a 2020 table of indemnity values for commercial animal agricultural commodities intended for use across USDA agencies or business units that deal with indemnity programs, including the APHIS–VS, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the USDA Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC–BC). Updated versions of this table with explicit methods were produced by VS annually through 2022 under the title “USDA Commercial Indemnity Table.” The data sources are primarily Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The USDA Commercial Indemnity Table did not include specialty or niche production classes of animals (e.g., purebred animals raised for seedstock, exotic breeds, organic animals, or special exhibition animals). Because VS indemnifies a broader range of animals than FSA, there is a need for many additional categories. Therefore, in 2022, VS developed a supplemental table to provide indemnity values for specialty production classes called the “VS Specialty Indemnity Table.” The data sources expanded to include five-year Census of Agriculture (Census) surveys, limited industry surveys, and publicly available, nationally representative online sources.

In 2023, VS began publishing one table with the values specifically for VS programs called the “VS Indemnity Table.” This table includes many of the same categories as FSA and FPAC–BC. However, some categories differ in the level of aggregation, although the base prices are consistent. The VS categories and estimation methods for the shared commodities are described in the section on values from government sources (originally found in the USDA Commercial Indemnity Table). The remaining sections describe the methods for values from additional data sources.

The VS Indemnity Table provides estimates of animal values. However, many regulations exist that may limit the payment amounts such that the amount in the table may exceed the amount that can be paid for the animals.

2. Overview of Updates

Additions or deletions to the production classes contained within this document, along with any substantive changes in calculation methods, are noted in this section.

- The One Big Beautiful Bill Act authorized new payments for unborn livestock losses resulting in changes to methods for estimating values for pregnant animals. FSA adopted the policy to value pregnant animals by including 85 percent of the lowest FSA weight class. Therefore, VS adopted the change to stay harmonized with FSA.
- The USDA AMS Greystone Small Animal Auction Report that was the source for turkey poult values was discontinued in 2025. The average hen and tom price per pound from NASS used in the calculation of the remaining commercial turkey categories is applied, assuming turkey poults average three pounds.

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

- The only categories with premiums for organic production are turkeys and broilers. Premiums/discounts were calculated using values for commercial animal categories, compared to their respective organic categories from the USDA Certified Organic Survey for 2021 adjusted to 2025 dollars.
- Because there was only one observation for ram sales in the USDA AMS National Monthly Replacement Sheep Report over the 2025 calendar year, the current year method is based on that observation and the previous four years indemnity table values to calculate a five-year average.
- The method to calculate gamebird breeder peak lay categories is based on the meat/release value plus the cost to feed between market age and point of lay.
- Prices used to estimate values for ducks (USDA AMS Weekly Central Region Duckling) and geese (USDA AMS Wholesale New York City Goose Price) are now found in the USDA Weekly Miscellaneous Poultry Report.
- Non-adult categories were added for alpaca, emu, llama, and ostrich.
- The factor used to adjust the doe deer for breeding/stocking was increased to ensure bred doe deer values are higher than doe deer for meat.
- Category names for dairy cattle under the age of 1 year were changed to age ranges from weights at the request of producers, field representatives, and commodity health staff.

3. Indemnity Values

Table 1. VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Class	\$ Value per head 2026
	(100% market value)
Beef	
<i>Non-adult beef cattle, <12 months of age</i>	
Non-adult (<250 lbs.)	579.05
Non-adult (<400 lbs., changed to 250–399 lbs. for 2020)	1,567.19
Non-adult (400–799 lbs.) steers	2,011.61
Non-adult (400–799 lbs.) heifers	1,770.22
<i>Non-age specific (intended for larger feeder animals rather than breeding animals)</i>	
Feeder steers or heifers (800–1,199 lbs.)	3,218.57
Feeder steers or heifers (1,200+ lbs.)	4,184.15
<i>Adult beef cattle, 12+ months of age</i>	
Adult cull cow (non-bred)	1,801.00
Adult cow bred	3,133.11
Adult bull	4,073.04
Adult open heifer or cow (non-cull)	2,253.00
Adult bred heifer	2,682.86
Dairy	
<i>Non-adult dairy cattle, <12 months of age</i>	
Non-adult (<3 months)	129.16
Non-adult [3-6 months)	728.13

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Non-adult [6–12 months) steers and heifers	1,456.25
<i>Non-age specific (intended for larger feeder animals rather than breeding animals)</i>	
Steers or heifers (800–1,199 lbs.)	2,378.54
Feeder steers or heifers (1,200+ lbs.)	3,092.10
<i>Adult dairy cattle, 12+ months of age</i>	
Open heifer or cow	2,912.50
Adult bull	2,907.36
Bred cow	3,531.41
Buffalo/bison	
<i>Non-adult buffalo/bison, <12 months of age</i>	
Non-adult (<250 lbs.)	579.00
Non-adult (250–399 lbs.)	1,029.89
Non-adult (400–799 lbs.)	2,100.37
<i>Non-age specific (intended for larger feeder animals rather than breeding animals)</i>	
Steers or heifers (800–1,199 lbs.)	2,819.65
Steers or heifers (1,200+ lbs.)	3,665.54
<i>Adult buffalo/bison, 12+ months of age</i>	
Adult heifer or cow	2,555.81
Adult bull	3,083.48
Beefalo	
<i>Non-adult beefalo, <12 months of age</i>	
Non-adult (<250 lbs.)	579.03
Non-adult (250–399 lbs.)	1,365.70
Non-adult (400–799 lbs.)	1,994.61
<i>Non-age specific (intended for larger feeder animals rather than breeding animals)</i>	
Steers or heifers (800–1,199 lbs.)	3,068.98
Steers or heifers (1,200+ lbs.)	3,989.67
<i>Adult beefalo, 12+ months of age</i>	
Adult heifer or cow	2,084.05
Adult bull	3,701.96
Swine	
Isoweans (<15 lbs.)	60.33
Nursery (15–49 lbs.)	87.01
Swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (50–149 lbs.)	143.70
Swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (150–299 lbs.)	181.70
Swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (300–449 lbs.)	276.04
Swine, sows/boars (450+ lbs.)	382.94
Sheep	

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Baby lambs (<50 lbs.)	133.01
Lambs (51–99 lbs.), includes replacement ewe lambs retained for breeding	212.46
Slaughter lambs (100+ lbs.)	269.92
Yearling ewes maintained for breeding (12–24 months), not late gestation	309.43
Yearling ewes (12–24 months), late gestation (last 4 weeks)	422.49
Young ewes maintained for breeding (25–48 months), not late gestation	231.42
Young ewes (25–48 months), late gestation (last 4 weeks)	344.47
Middle-aged ewes maintained for breeding (49–72 months), not late gestation	212.67
Middle-aged ewes (49–72 months), late gestation (last 4 weeks)	325.72
Aged ewes (73+ months), not late gestation, includes mature sheep in slaughter channels and wethers too old to slaughter as lambs (12+ months based on eruption of first incisors)	183.28
Aged ewes (6+ years), late gestation (last 4 weeks)	296.34
Sire rams of reproductive age	784.46
Goats	
Bucks maintained for breeding (12+ months)	317.53
Seedstock nannies/does maintained for breeding (12+ months), not late gestation	166.95
Seedstock nannies/does maintained for breeding (12+ months), late gestation (last 4 weeks)	271.03
Other adult goats (nannies/does/bucks) not maintained for breeding (12+ months)	139.70
Other adult nannies/does (12+ months), late gestation (last 4 weeks)	243.78
Kids (<40 lbs.)	122.45
Kids (40–60 lbs.)	173.78
Kids (60–80 lbs.)	232.96
Kids (81+ lbs.)	257.28
Chickens, layers (Conventional)	
Table eggs (\$/dozen)	3.13
Chick (0–1 week)	1.14
Pullet (2–17 weeks)	4.06
Layer 1 st lay (18–45 weeks)	16.44
Layer 2 nd lay (46–65 weeks)	8.22
Pre-spent hen (66–85 weeks)	4.11
Molted hen (86–115 weeks)	4.11
Spent one-cycle hen (86+ weeks)	0.01
Spent molted hen (116+ weeks)	0.01
Chickens, layers (Cage-free)	
Table eggs (\$/dozen)	4.11
Chick (0–1 week)	1.15
Pullet (2–17 weeks)	4.90
Layer 1 st lay (18–45 weeks)	18.04
Layer 2 nd lay (46–65 weeks)	9.03

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Pre-spent hen (66–85 weeks)	4.51
Molted hen (86–115 weeks)	4.51
Spent one-cycle hen (86+ weeks)	0.01
Spent molted hen (116+ weeks)	0.01
Chickens, broilers	
Chickens, deboning/roasters, super roasters/parts (49+ days of age)	6.53
Chickens, roasters (42–48 days of age)	4.97
Chickens, broilers (32–41 days of age)	3.90
Chickens, broilers (<32 days of age) and small Cornish hens	2.63
Chickens, chicks	0.71
Turkeys	
Turkeys, toms (84+ days of age)	34.88
Turkeys, toms (49–83 days of age)	28.54
Turkeys, hens (77+ days of age)	19.53
Turkeys, hens (49–77 days of age)	13.95
Turkeys, fryers and roasters (8–48 days of age)	10.43
Turkeys, poults (0–7 days of age)	4.47
Other	
Ducks (12+ weeks of age)	6.39
Ducklings (<12 weeks of age)	1.02
Goose (12+ weeks of age)	67.71
Gosling (<12 weeks of age)	14.22
Alpaca (3+ years of age)	867.37
Alpaca (less than 3 years of age)	485.80
Llama (4+ years of age)	701.13
Llama (less than 4 years of age)	392.69
Emu (2+ years of age)	467.21
Emu (less than 2 years of age)	55.31
Ostrich (1+ years of age)	1,141.67
Ostrich (less than 1 year of age)	135.15
Chickens, broilers – organic	
Chickens, deboning/roasters, super roasters/parts (49+ days of age) – organic	7.07
Chickens, roasters (42–48 days of age) – organic	5.38
Chickens, broilers (32–41 days of age) – organic	4.23
Chickens, broilers (8–31 days of age) and small Cornish hens – organic	2.84
Chickens, chicks (0–7 days of age) – organic	0.77
Turkeys – organic	

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Turkeys, toms (84+ days of age) – organic	67.09
Turkeys, toms (49–83 days of age) – organic	54.90
Turkeys, hens (78+ days of age) – organic	27.09
Turkeys, hens (49–77 days of age) – organic	19.35
Turkeys, fryers and roasters (8–48 days of age) – organic	16.89
Turkeys, poults (0–7 days of age) – organic	7.24
Turkeys – breeder	
Turkeys, male (392+ days of age, spent) – breeder	34.88
Turkeys, male (238–391 days of age) – breeder	151.83
Turkeys, male (196–237 days of age) – breeder	268.79
Turkeys, male (49–195 days of age) – breeder	169.37
Turkeys, male (8–48 days of age) – breeder	69.96
Turkeys, male (0–7 days of age) – breeder	29.98
Turkeys, female (392+ days of age, spent) – breeder	19.53
Turkeys, female (238–391 days of age) – breeder	73.77
Turkeys, female (196–237 days of age) – breeder	128.00
Turkeys, female (49–195 days of age) – breeder	92.97
Turkeys, female (8–48 days of age) – breeder	57.93
Turkeys, female (0–7 days of age) – breeder	24.83
Upland game fowl	
Ring-necked Pheasant, hatching egg	0.90
Ring-necked Pheasant, chick (0–20 days)	1.92
Ring-necked Pheasant, 3 weeks (21–41 days)	4.95
Ring-necked Pheasant, 6 weeks (42–62 days)	7.98
Ring-necked Pheasant, 9 weeks (63–83 days)	11.01
Ring-necked Pheasant, 12 weeks (84–104 days)	14.04
Ring-necked Pheasant, 15 weeks (105–125 days)	17.06
Ring-necked Pheasant, 18 weeks (126–132 days)	20.09
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder (133–160 days)	21.63
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder (161–188 days)	23.17
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder (189–216 days)	24.71
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder (217–244 days)	26.25
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder (245–272 days)	27.80
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder (273–300 days)	29.34
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, lay (301–328 days)	28.31
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, lay (329–356 days)	27.28
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, lay (357–384 days)	26.25
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, lay (385–413 days)	25.23
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, lay (413–440 days)	24.20
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, molt (441–468 days)	23.17
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, molt (469–496 days)	21.52

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, molt (497–524 days)	20.40
Ring-necked Pheasant, breeder, molt (525+ days)	20.09
Hun/Redleg Partridge, hatching egg	1.73
Hun/Redleg Partridge, chick (0–20 days)	3.45
Hun/Redleg Partridge, 3 weeks (21–41 days)	6.43
Hun/Redleg Partridge, 6 weeks (42–62 days)	9.39
Hun/Redleg Partridge, 9 weeks (63–83 days)	12.37
Hun/Redleg Partridge, 12 weeks (84–104 days)	15.34
Hun/Redleg Partridge, 15 weeks (105–111 days)	18.32
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder (112–132 days)	19.67
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder (133–160 days)	21.01
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder (161–188 days)	22.36
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder (189–216 days)	23.70
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder (217–244 days)	25.05
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder (245–272 days)	26.40
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder (273–279 days)	27.74
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, lay (280–307 days)	26.80
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, lay (308–335 days)	25.86
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, lay (336–363 days)	24.92
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, lay (364–391 days)	23.97
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, lay (392–440 days)	23.03
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, lay (441–468 days)	22.09
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, molt (469–496 days)	21.15
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, molt (497–524 days)	20.20
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, molt (525–552 days)	19.26
Hun/Redleg Partridge, breeder, molt (553+ days)	18.32
Chukar Partridge, hatching egg	0.82
Chukar Partridge, chick (0–20 days)	1.71
Chukar Partridge, 3 weeks (21–41 days)	4.21
Chukar Partridge, 6 weeks (42–62 days)	6.72
Chukar Partridge, 9 weeks (63–83 days)	9.22
Chukar Partridge, 12 weeks (84–104 days)	11.73
Chukar Partridge, 15 weeks (105–111 days)	14.23
Chukar Partridge, breeder (112–132 days)	15.27
Chukar Partridge, breeder (133–160 days)	16.31
Chukar Partridge, breeder (161–188 days)	17.35
Chukar Partridge, breeder (189–216 days)	18.39
Chukar Partridge, breeder (217–244 days)	19.43
Chukar Partridge, breeder (245–272 days)	20.47
Chukar Partridge, breeder (273–279 days)	21.51
Chukar Partridge, breeder, lay (280–307 days)	20.78
Chukar Partridge, breeder, lay (308–335 days)	20.06
Chukar Partridge, breeder, lay (336–363 days)	19.33

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Chukar Partridge, breeder, lay (364–391 days)	18.60
Chukar Partridge, breeder, lay (392–440 days)	17.87
Chukar Partridge, breeder, lay (441–468 days)	17.14
Chukar Partridge, breeder, molt (469–496 days)	16.41
Chukar Partridge, breeder, molt (497–524 days)	15.69
Chukar Partridge, breeder, molt (525–552 days)	14.96
Chukar Partridge, breeder, molt (553+ days)	14.23
Quail, hatching egg	0.47
Quail, chick (0–20 days)	0.94
Quail, 3 weeks (21–41 days)	2.66
Quail, 6 weeks (42–62 days)	4.40
Quail, 9 weeks (63–83 days)	6.12
Quail, 12 weeks (84–90 days)	7.84
Quail, breeder (91–111 days)	8.69
Quail, breeder (112–132 days)	9.53
Quail, breeder (133–160 days)	10.37
Quail, breeder (161–188 days)	11.21
Quail, breeder (189–216 days)	12.06
Quail, breeder (217–244 days)	12.90
Quail, breeder (245–272 days)	13.74
Quail, breeder (273–279 days)	14.59
Quail, breeder, lay (280–307 days)	13.97
Quail, breeder, lay (308–335 days)	13.36
Quail, breeder, lay (336–363 days)	12.75
Quail, breeder, lay (364–391 days)	12.13
Quail, breeder, lay (392–419 days)	11.52
Quail, breeder, lay (420–447 days)	10.91
Quail, breeder, lay (448–454 days)	10.30
Quail, breeder, molt (455–482 days)	9.68
Quail, breeder, molt (483–510 days)	9.07
Quail, breeder, molt (511–538 days)	8.46
Quail, breeder, molt (539+ days)	7.84
Deer	
Buck deer for meat	1,756.92
Doe deer for meat	1,171.28
Buck deer for breeding/stocking	2,833.66
Doe deer for breeding/stocking	1,360.16
Non-adult male deer	354.21
Non-adult female deer	188.91
Elk	

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Common cow (1 year old and older)	1,625.85
Common cow (less than 1 year)	701.65
Superior cow (up to 14 years old)	3,979.28
Superior cow (14 years old and older)	1,989.64
Bull (up to 1 year old)	3,060.00
Bull (1 year old)	4,082.26
Bull (2 years old)	5,104.52
Bull (3 years old)	6,126.78
Bull (4 years old)	7,149.03
Bull (5 years old)	8,171.29
Bull (6 years old)	9,193.55
Bull (7 years old and older)	10,215.81
Other seedstock	
Alpaca (seedstock)	1,612.64
Llama (seedstock)	1,269.42
Standard and exotic fowl (small scale production – 500 birds or less)	
Chickens, hatching eggs	3.97
Chickens, male (0–77 days)	6.69
Chickens, male (78–147 days)	17.83
Chickens, male (148+ days)	28.97
Chickens, female (0–77 days)	6.69
Chickens, female (78–147 days)	15.39
Chickens, female (148+ days)	24.08
Chickens, show, hatching eggs	9.92
Chickens, show, male (0–77 days)	16.74
Chickens, show, male (78–147 days)	42.94
Chickens, show, male (148+ days)	54.08
Chickens, show, female (0–77 days)	16.74
Chickens, show, female (78–147 days)	40.49
Chickens, show, female (148+ days)	49.18
Ducks, hatching eggs	9.47
Ducks, male (0–70 days)	15.97
Ducks, male (71–315 days)	29.64
Ducks, male (316+ days)	43.30
Ducks, female (0–70 days)	15.97
Ducks, female (71–315 days)	27.68
Ducks, female (316+ days)	39.40
Ducks, show, hatching eggs	23.66
Ducks, show, male (0–70 days)	39.93
Ducks, show, male (71–315 days)	89.54
Ducks, show, male (316+ days)	103.20

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Ducks, show, female (0–70 days)	39.93
Ducks, show, female (71–315 days)	87.58
Ducks, show, female (316+ days)	99.30
Geese, hatching eggs	22.21
Geese, male (0–56 days)	37.47
Geese, male (57–1036 days)	80.51
Geese, male (1037+ days)	123.55
Geese, female (0–56 days)	37.47
Geese, female (57–1036 days)	72.96
Geese, female (1037+ days)	108.46
Geese, show, hatching eggs	55.52
Geese, show, male (0–56 days)	93.68
Geese, show, male (57–1036 days)	221.02
Geese, show, male (1037+ days)	264.07
Geese, show, female (0–56 days)	93.68
Geese, show, female (57–1036 days)	213.48
Geese, show, female (1037+ days)	248.97
Guineas, hatching eggs	5.24
Guineas, male (0–35 days)	8.85
Guineas, male (36–364 days)	18.03
Guineas, male (365+ days)	27.20
Guineas, female (0–35 days)	8.85
Guineas, female (36–364 days)	16.50
Guineas, female (365+ days)	24.14
Peafowl, hatching eggs	40.39
Peafowl, male (0–133 days)	68.16
Peafowl, male (134–791 days)	100.48
Peafowl, male (792+ days)	132.79
Peafowl, female (0–133 days)	68.16
Peafowl, female (134–791 days)	89.29
Peafowl, female (792+ days)	110.43
Pigeons, hatching eggs	3.06
Pigeons, male (0–35 days)	5.10
Pigeons, male (36–252 days)	18.91
Pigeons, male (253+ days)	27.62
Pigeons, female (0–35 days)	5.23
Pigeons, female (36–252 days)	19.04
Pigeons, female (253+ days)	27.62
Turkeys, hatching eggs	11.46
Turkeys, male (0–56 days)	19.35
Turkeys, male (57–315 days)	72.42
Turkeys, male (316+ days)	125.49
Turkeys, female (0–56 days)	19.35

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Turkeys, female (57–315 days)	48.67
Turkeys, female (316+ days)	78.00
Turkeys, show, hatching eggs	28.67
Turkeys, show, male (0–56 days)	48.37
Turkeys, show, male (57–315 days)	144.98
Turkeys, show, male (316+ days)	198.04
Turkeys, show, female (0–56 days)	48.37
Turkeys, show, female (57–315 days)	121.23
Turkeys, show, female (316+ days)	150.55

Appendix. Calculation Methods and Data Sources for VS Indemnity Valuations

Note. The term hundredweight (cwt) is used in this section.

Values Calculated from Government Data Sources

1. Beef Section

Non-adult beef cattle, <12 months of age

Beef non-adult (<250 lbs.)

This estimated value retains the proportional difference between beef non-adult (<250 lbs.) and beef non-adult (250–399 lbs.) estimated by FSA in 2020.

Beef non-adult (250–399 lbs.)

Estimated value is 375 lbs. worth of the NASS cattle (calves). The data used for these calculations are NASS Quick Stats values for CATTLE, CALVES - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT available at

<https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey

Sector: Animals & Products

Group: Livestock

Commodity: Cattle

Category: Prices Received

Data Item(s): "CATTLE, CALVES - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT"

Domain: Total

Geographic Level: National

State: US Total

Year: [enter year as needed]

Period Type: Monthly

Period: January through December

Beef non-adult (400–799 lbs.) steers

Estimated value is 625 lbs. worth of the average annual cwt value obtained from the Oklahoma National Stockyards Feeder Cattle sales report: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-domestic-data/>

Beef non-adult (400–799 lbs.) heifers

Estimated value is 550 lbs. worth of the average annual cwt value obtained from the Oklahoma National Stockyards Feeder Cattle sales report: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-domestic-data/>

Non-age specific (intended for larger feeder animals rather than breeding animals)

Beef feeder steers or heifers (800–1,199 lbs.)

Estimated value is 1,000 lbs. worth of the average annual cwt value obtained from the Oklahoma National Stockyards Feeder Cattle sales report: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-domestic-data/>

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Beef feeder steers or heifers (1,200+ lbs.)

Estimated value is 1,300 lbs. worth of the average annual cwt value obtained from the Oklahoma National Stockyards Feeder Cattle sales report: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-domestic-data/>

Adult beef cattle, 12+ months of age

Adult cull cow (non-bred)

Estimated value is 1,200 lbs. worth of the NASS cattle. The data used for these calculations are NASS Quick Stats values for CATTLE, COWS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT available at <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey
Sector: Animals & Products
Group: Livestock
Commodity: Cattle
Category: Prices Received
Data Item(s): "CATTLE, COWS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT"
Domain: Total
Geographic Level: National
State: US Total
Year: [enter year as needed]
Period Type: Monthly
Period: January through December

Adult cow bred

Estimated value is based on the adult cull cow value plus 85 percent of the beef non-adult (250–400 lbs.) value.

Adult bull

Estimated value is based on the adult cow bred value plus 30 percent.

Adult open heifers (or cows)

Estimated value is 700 lbs. worth of the average annual cwt value obtained from the Oklahoma National Stockyards Feeder Cattle sales report: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-domestic-data/>

Bred heifers

Estimated value is 900 lbs. worth of the NASS plus 85 percent of the beef non-adult (250–400 lbs.) value.

The data used for these calculations are NASS Quick Stats values for CATTLE, COWS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / HUNDREDWEIGHT (CWT) available at <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey
Sector: Animals & Products
Group: Livestock
Commodity: Cattle

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Category: Prices Received

Data Item(s): "CATTLE, COWS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT"

Domain: Total

Geographic Level: National

State: US Total

Year: [enter year as needed]

Period Type: Monthly

Period: January through December

2. Dairy Section

Non-adult dairy cattle, <12 months of age

Dairy non-adult (<250 lbs.)

This estimated value retains the proportional difference between dairy non-adult (<250 lbs.) and dairy non-adult (250–399 lbs.) estimated by FSA in 2020.

Dairy non-adult (250–399 lbs.)

Value is based on 25 percent of the adult cow value.

Dairy non-adult (400–799 lbs.) steers and heifers

Value is based on 50 percent of the adult cow value.

Non-age specific (intended for larger feeder animals rather than breeding animals)

Dairy steers or heifers (800–1,199 lbs.)

Assumes 1,000 lbs. of representative weight. Uses the average of per pound price of adult dairy cows and non-adult dairy cows (400–799 lbs.) as the price. The 2024 formula is $1,000 * (\text{average (adult dairy cow value per head / representative weight), non-adult (400–799 lbs.) / representative weight})$.

Dairy steers or heifers (1,200+ lbs.)

Assumes 1,300 lbs. of representative weight. Uses the average of per pound price of adult dairy cows and non-adult dairy cows (400–799 lbs.) as the price. The formula is $1,300 * (\text{average (adult dairy cow value per head / representative weight), non-adult (400–799 lbs.) / representative weight})$.

Adult dairy cattle, 12+ months of age

Dairy adult cow (or heifer)

The data used for these calculations are quarterly NASS Quick Stats values for CATTLE, COWS, MILK - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT available at <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey

Sector: Animals & Products

Group: Livestock

Commodity: Cattle

Category: Prices Received

Data Item(s): "CATTLE, COWS, MILK - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT"

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Domain: Total
Geographic Level: National
State: US Total
Year: [enter year as needed]
Period Type: Monthly
Period: January through December

Dairy adult bull

The data source for bulls is the AMS report (LM_CT168) National Weekly Direct Cow and Bull Report - Negotiated Price, available at https://mpr.datamart.ams.usda.gov/menu.do?path=Products\Cattle\Weekly Cattle\LM_CT168 [National Weekly Direct Cow and Bull Report - Negotiated Price](#).

Select "Detail" for "Sub Reports Type" and select dates for the report (in "Report Dates" field on the webpage). Leave the rest as default settings and press "Continue." Use the default settings, select "CSV" file format, and press "Generate Report." Select "Download Detail File." Convert the .csv file to a .xlsx file. In the converted file, create a pivot table as follows. "Selling Basis" goes in the "Filters" area. Select the options of DRESSED and DRESSED – DOMESTIC for Selling Basis. "Classification," "Weight Range," and "Sum Values" go into the "Columns" area ("Sum Values" shows up automatically). "Region Name" goes in the "Rows" area. "Head Count," "Average Weight," and "Weighted Avg Price" go into the "Sum Values" area. In the "Sum Values" area, click on each field to bring up a pull-down menu. Pick "Value Field Settings" from the pull-down menu. This brings up options for summarizing each of the fields in the area. For "Head Count," select "Sum." For the other two fields, select "Average."

This pivot table includes carcass prices in \$/cwt for bulls 600+ lbs. along with average carcass weights. The assumed dressing percentage is 60 percent based on an analysis of USDA NASS data (USDA NASS, February 2020). These data were downloaded from <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey
Sector: Animals & Products
Group: Livestock
Commodity: Cattle
Category: Slaughtered
Data Item(s): "CATTLE, GE 500 LBS, SLAUGHTER, COMMERCIAL, FI - SLAUGHTERED, MEASURED IN LB / HEAD, DRESSED BASIS" and "CATTLE, GE 500 LBS, SLAUGHTER, COMMERCIAL - SLAUGHTERED, MEASURED IN LB / HEAD, LIVE BASIS"
Domain: Total
Geographic Level: National
State: US Total
Year: [enter year as needed]
Period Type: Monthly
Period: January through December

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Multiply the carcass prices by the dressing percentage to get the price of a 1,000+ lbs. live weight bull in \$/cwt.

Divide the average carcass weights of bulls in the 600+ lbs. category by the dressing percentage to get the average live weight of bulls in the 1,000+ lbs. category.

Multiply the live weight price in \$/cwt by the average live weight and divide the result by 100 to get \$/head for bulls in the 1,000+ lbs. category.

3. Buffalo/Bison and Beefalo Section

Buffalo/bison

Estimated values for all buffalo/bison categories are indexed forward from the previous year's values using weighted annual average bison carcass values (weighted by type and number of head). Bison carcass values are obtained from the AMS NW_LS_526 reports.

Beefalo

Values for all beefalo categories are assumed to be a weighted average of 3/8 of the value of bison and 5/8 of the value of beef cattle for the equivalent cohort category. For the beef 400–799 lbs. category, an average of the steer and heifer value is used. The representative weight is 600 lbs.

4. Swine Section

Unless otherwise noted, all values for the swine section are calculated using information from the Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) website (LMIC, February 2026). The specific information is found in the Weekly National Feeder Pig Prices (FeederPigsNational.xls). To download this spreadsheet, go to the LMIC website at <http://www.lmic.info/>. Accessing the necessary information from LMIC requires member access (USDA is a member), including username and password. Once logged in, go to “Members Only” on the toolbar to get a drop-down menu and select “Spreadsheets,” then “Hogs” and “Prices.” The spreadsheets listed above can be found in the Prices section.

Isoweans (<15 lbs.)

The data used for these calculations are found in the FeederPigsNational.xls spreadsheet in the “EW10-12” tab under the column headings of Total Composite (Price per Head) > Formula & Cash > Wtd Avg Price. The values in this column are reported weekly. The calculation is an annual average across the weekly prices. The assumed average weight for isoweans is 11 lbs. (The weight is not used in the calculations.)

Nursery pigs (15–49 lbs.)

The data used for these calculations are found in the FeederPigsNational.xls spreadsheet in the “40” tab under the column headings of Total Composite (Price per Head) > Formula & Cash > Wtd Avg Price. The values in this column are reported weekly. The calculation is an annual average across the weekly prices. The assumed average weight for nursery pigs is 40 lbs. (The weight is not used in the calculations.)

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

Swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (50–149 lb)¹

This value is calculated as 100 lbs. times an average of the nursery pigs price per pound above and the swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (150–299 lbs.) price per pound described below.

Swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (150–299 lbs.)²

The value for this category is based on the HOGS, BARROWS & GILTS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT from NASS Quick Stats available at <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey
Sector: Animals & Products
Group: Livestock
Commodity: Hogs
Category: Prices Received
Data Item(s): "HOGS, BARROWS & GILTS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT"
Domain: Total
Geographic Level: National
State: US Total
Year: [enter year as needed]
Period Type: Monthly
Period: January through December

The calculation is an annual average across the monthly prices. The prices are presented in \$/cwt. To convert to \$/head, this price is multiplied by an assumed average weight (260 lbs.) and then divided by 100.

Swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (300–449 lbs.)

The data used for these calculations are also based on the HOGS, BARROWS & GILTS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT from NASS Quick Stats [same as above: swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (150–299 lbs.)]. The calculation is an annual average across monthly prices. To convert to \$/head, this price is multiplied by an assumed average weight (395 lbs.) and then divided by 100.

Swine, sows, boars, barrows, gilts (450+ lbs.)

The data used for these calculations are NASS Quick Stats values for HOGS, SOWS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT available at <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

¹ The breakpoint between the 50–149 lbs. and the 150–299 lbs. groups is based on prior USDA Farm Service Agency swine categories. Weights of market hogs have been increasing rapidly in recent years. This breakpoint may need to be re-evaluated in the future.

² This category differs from FSA because it is based on different datasets due to differences in categories. FSA averages values for feeder pigs and swine 150–450 lbs.

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey
Sector: Animals & Products
Group: Livestock
Commodity: Hogs
Category: Prices Received
Data Item(s): "HOGS, SOWS - PRICE RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$ / CWT"
Domain: Total
Geographic Level: National
State: US Total
Year: [enter year as needed]
Period Type: Monthly
Period: January through December

The calculation is an annual average across monthly prices. To convert to \$/head, this price is multiplied by an assumed average weight (525 lbs.) and then divided by 100.

5. Sheep and Goat Section

Sheep

The values for the sheep section can be obtained from reports downloaded from the AMS website (USDA AMS, January 2021b) at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news>.

From this page, search for the National Monthly Replacement Sheep Report GL_LS336. This report is released monthly. Values for the sheep categories shown in Table 1 can be found in these reports. An annual average is taken of the monthly prices shown in these reports.

The value from this report for ewe lambs under 12 months of age is used as representative of lambs from 51–99 lbs., including replacement ewe lambs retained for breeding.

For ewes in late gestation (last 4 weeks), 85 percent of the baby lamb value is added to the corresponding ewe category.

The ram value is calculated using the reported values for rams under 12 months (the only information available) times 1.3 to account for cost of feeding older rams.

The slaughter lamb price is calculated using weekly values in cents per pound from the AMS St. Joseph report (https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_lm352.txt) times the representative weight (140 lbs.) divided by 100 to get the dollar value.

Goats

Values for bucks and nannies are calculated from the following market report auction prices obtained from USDA AMS, available at <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/>.

- Buffalo Livestock Market
- Calhoun
- Eastanollee

VS Indemnity Table for 2026

- Kalona Livestock Auction
- Montgomery County Livestock Auction
- New Holland Auction
- Orangeburg Livestock Auction
- Producers Auction Yards (Missouri)
- Producers Livestock Auction Co – San Angelo
- Public Auction Yards
- Saluda Livestock Auction
- SEMO Livestock Sales
- Sioux Falls Regional Livestock
- TS White Sheep and Goat Sale

An annual average is calculated from the monthly reported values. The annual average buck value is multiplied by 1.3 to allow for the cost of feeding bucks to maturity since the bucks sold at market are young animals less than 12 months of age.

Remaining values for the goat section are calculated from San Angelo, Texas, auction prices obtained from the LMIC. For the other adult goats category, an annual average is taken across meat goats for slaughter bucks and nannies (converted from \$/cwt to \$/head at a representative live weight of 100 lbs.). For each of the kid categories, an annual average is taken across all grades for the given weight categories of feeder and slaughter kids (converted from \$/cwt to \$/head at representative live weights of 35, 50, 70, and 90 lbs. for each of the four kid goat categories).

For nannies in late gestation (last 4 weeks), 85 percent of the kid goat (<40 lbs.) value is added to the corresponding adult goat category.

6. Poultry Section

Chickens, broilers

Based on (a) NASS Quick Stats broiler value times (b) representative weight within weight range.

(a) NASS Quick Stats Broiler Value: <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>.

The parameters for downloading the necessary report are:

Program: Survey

Sector: Animals & Products

Group: Poultry

Commodity: Chickens

Category: Prices Received

Data Item(s): "CHICKENS. BROILERS-PRICES RECEIVED, MEASURED IN \$/LB"

Domain: Total

Geographic Level: National

State: US Total

Year: [enter year as needed]

Period Type: Monthly

Period: January through December

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(b) Representative Weight within Weight Range

Category	Pounds
Chickens, deboning/roasters (>7.75 lbs.) [Super roasters/parts]	9.2
Chickens, (6.26–7.75 lbs.) [Roasters]	7
Chickens, (4.26–6.25 lbs.) [Broilers/Pullets]	5.5
Chickens, (<4.25 lbs.) [Broilers/Cornish hens small]	3.7
Chickens, chicks	0.5

Weights were converted to age ranges using the publicly available Aviagen Ross 308 and Ross 308 FF performance objectives for 2019 (Aviagen, 2019).

Turkeys

Hens and toms

The AMS Weekly National Fresh and Frozen Whole Young Turkeys Report (USDA AMS, January 2026c) is the data source for the turkey commercial indemnity values. The report is available prior to September 2022 at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/turkey-market-news-reports>. Starting in September 2022, the information is reported at <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/3647>. The report provides weekly values for fresh hens (8–16 lbs.) and toms (16–24 lbs.) in cents per pound to be used when calculating the annual values for the previous calendar year. The estimated weights for each age range are as follows: hens age 49–77 days (10 lbs.), hens age 78+ days (14 lbs.), toms age 49–83 days (18 lbs.), and toms age 84+ days (22 lbs.). The weights are then multiplied by the average annual value for each classification. Categories for roasters and fryers (5–9 lbs.) is calculated using the midpoint weight, 7 lbs., and 3 lbs. for poult times the average price per pound for hens and toms combined.

Weights were converted to age ranges using the publicly available Aviagen performance objectives for Nicholas Select, B.U.T 6, and Premium turkeys (Aviagen, undated).

7. Other Commodity Categories

Methods and data sources adopted from USDA FSA LIP Table for 2021 adjusted to 100 percent of market value (USDA FSA, January 2021).

Ducks (12+ weeks of age)

USDA Weekly Miscellaneous Poultry Report (AMS 3645). (1) Assuming 4.5 lbs. per duck times the average annual mid-point price per lbs. (2) Take farm price of broilers NASS Quick Stats. (3) AMS report 2758 monthly composite weighted average. (4) Obtain the ratio of (2)/(3) for the reporting year. (5) Take the 4-year rolling average of the ratio (4). (6) Multiply the price obtained in (1) by the ratio obtained in (5).

Ducklings (<12 weeks of age)

Assumes 16 percent of the value of mature duck.

Goose (12+ weeks of age)

USDA Weekly Miscellaneous Poultry Report (AMS 3645). (1) Assuming 12 lbs. per goose times the average annual mid-point price per lbs. (2) Take farm price of broilers NASS Quick Stats. (3) AMS report 2758 monthly composite

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weighted average. (4) Obtain the ratio of (2)/(3) for the reporting year. (5) Take the 4-year rolling average of the ratio (4). (6) Multiply the price obtained in (1) by the ratio obtained in (5).

Gosling (<12 weeks of age)

Assumes 21 percent value of mature goose.

Deer for meat (doe deer for meat)

Initial public data source: None. Adjusts the FSA LIP payment rate of the previous year by the year-over-year value change in adult beef (cull) cow. (See Beef Section above).

Elk for meat (common cow)

Initial public data source: NASS 2006 Minnesota Elk Inventory. Adjusts the FSA LIP payment rate of the previous year by the year-over-year value change in adult beef (cull) cow. (See Beef Section above).

Alpaca, llama, ostrich, and emu

Distinct values for each species. Initial public data source: None. Adjust the FSA LIP payment rate of the previous year by the year-over-year value change in adult beef (cull) cow. (See Beef Section above). Non-adult categories for alpaca and llama are estimated using the average ratio of non-adult to adult cows for beef and dairy. Non-adult categories for ostrich and emu are estimated using the average ratio of non-adult to adult for turkeys.

Values Calculated from Five-year Census Surveys

Organic

The calculated values are based on the NASS Organic Survey conducted at approximately five-year intervals by NASS in connection with the Census of Agriculture. Information regarding the Census of Agriculture is available at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php>. More about the Organic Survey is available at [USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Surveys - Organic Agriculture](#). Calculated values are shown in relation to the 2026 VS Indemnity Table. The premiums are calculated as the value from the 2021 Organic Survey adjusted to 2025 dollars relative to the 2026 VS Indemnity Table value expressed as a percentage. The premium percentage is applied to the values provided in the commercial table to estimate the values for organic broilers shown in Table 1. The premium percentage for organic turkeys is applied to those organic turkey categories shown in Table 1 that are not covered in the section below regarding values calculated from limited industry surveys.

Other non-organic animal species

The values from the 2022 Census of Agriculture survey are applied to adult alpacas and llamas used specifically as genetic seedstock. Data from the Census of Agriculture can be obtained from: <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>.

Subcategories of animal production classes not included in commercial indemnity tables

A set of indemnity values for deer are estimated based on the value presented above and a set of adjustment factors developed in 2022 for deer and applied to deer values from the 2017 Census of Agriculture survey. Factors have not been updated due to a lack of data for the default assumptions. The adjusted values for various subcategories of deer are presented in Table 1. These values are obtained by multiplying the aggregate survey values for deer and the FSA values for deer by the adjustment factors described below. Census of Agriculture 2022 survey values are the most current available and are multiplied by the adjustment factors established in 2022.

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<u>Factor</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
Buck deer for meat	FSA value times 1.5 ³
Doe deer for meat	FSA value times 1
Buck deer for breeding/stocking	Survey value times 1.25 ⁴
Doe deer for breeding/stocking	Survey value times .6 ⁵
<u>Factor</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
Non-adult male deer	Breeding buck value divided by 8 ⁶
Non-adult female deer	Breeding doe value divided by 6 ⁷

Values Calculated from Limited Industry Surveys

Limited industry surveys provide data from commodity-specific industry representatives to support the development of possible premium values for application to specialty production categories. Data may include sales data or cost data regarding the specific specialty category. Appropriate sales data would document nationally representative sales of animals in the specialty category. Appropriate cost data would document nationally representative production costs for animals in the specialty category in relation to production costs for conventionally produced animal categories such as those that appear in the VS Indemnity Table.

Subcategories of turkey production classes not included in commercial indemnity tables

Values are from a limited survey conducted by the National Turkey Federation (NTF) in 2020, using a cost approach. NTF reported the values from 2019 adjusted to 2025 dollars. The premium percentages are applied to the values provided for the commercial animals to estimate the values shown in Table 1. Age ranges are adjusted for productive phases of breeders. Two additional categories are added at the end of the productive life: (1) spent breeder turkeys are valued the same as full-grown commercial turkeys; (2) breeder turkeys 238–391 days of age are valued at the midpoint of the spent value and the peak production value.

Subcategories for gamebird production classes

The North American Gamebird Association (NAGA) is a trade association representing 300 of the largest pheasant, partridge, and quail farms, along with game bird hunting preserves across the United States. NAGA provided values to ensure indemnity values are in line with industry averages based on data that was not available to APHIS. For meat birds, NAGA conducted a nationally representative survey of ring-necked pheasant, Hun/redleg partridge, chukar

³ The FSA deer value (at 100 percent market value) is assumed to be the meat value of a doe deer. A buck is assumed to weigh 1.5 times the weight of a doe deer. A factor of one and one half (1.5) is therefore used to adjust the FSA deer value to a meat value for a buck.

⁴ Assumes that a 4-year-old buck of common quality with a Safari Club International (SCI) antler score from 160–169 is valued at \$2,000. This value divided by the 2017 survey value of \$1,622.53 yields an adjustment factor of 1.23. A factor of one and one quarter (1.25) is therefore used to adjust the 2022 survey value to a value for a common quality buck.

⁵ Assumes that a 2-year-old doe from a common quality sire is valued at \$750. This value divided by the 2017 survey value of \$1,622.53 yields an adjustment factor of 0.46. However, to ensure the value of a breeding doe is more than doe for meat, a factor of 0.6 is therefore used to adjust the 2022 survey value to a value for a common quality doe.

⁶ Assumes that a buck fawn from a common quality sire is valued at \$250. This value divided by the breeding buck value calculated above yields an adjustment factor of 0.123. A factor of one eighth (0.125) is therefore used to adjust the value of the calculated breeding buck value to a value of a buck fawn.

⁷ Assumes that a doe fawn from a common quality sire is valued at \$125. This value divided by the breeding doe value calculated above yields an adjustment factor of 0.154. A factor of one sixth (0.167) is therefore used to adjust the value of the calculated breeding doe value to a value of a doe fawn.

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partridge, and quail producers to estimate values for three-week age categories and also proposed average ages for these gamebirds to reach maturity. NAGA also provided data for breeder birds and the values are based on the market value of the bird plus the costs to produce the bird to the point of lay.

A gamebird breeder is:

A gamebird that is in lay:

Must be able to demonstrate that the eggs are destined to be hatched vs. being used for human consumption. Documentation examples: Hatchery on premises, records of eggs being shipped to hatchery, presence of incubator on premises, etc.

OR

A gamebird that is 5–18 months of age with accompanying documentation of differentiation (must meet at least two of the criteria):

- Egg production records from the current flock with corresponding pen/housing specific mortality records;
- Housed separately from nonbreeder birds;
- On a specialty breeder diet (for at least 2 weeks);
- On a light cycle (for at least 2 weeks); or
- Wing clipping.

Chickens, layers (Conventional and Cage-free)

Iowa State University's Egg Industry Center (<https://www.eggindustrycenter.org/industry-analysis>) is the source of the data for the categories for layers. Conventional values are from the Conventional Egg Cost of Production and Prices report and cage-free values are from the Specialty Egg Cost of Production and Prices report both dated January 9, 2026. USDA Quality Assessment Division Verification⁸ is required for cage-free designation.

Category	Source
Chick (0–1 week)	Table 1 footnote
Pullet (2–17 weeks)	Table 2
Layer 1st lay (18–45 weeks)	= (pullet cost (table 2) + feed cost (table 4)) times (number of eggs produced (table 3 footnote)/12)
Layer 2nd lay (46–65 weeks)	Half layer 1st lay value
Pre-spent hen (66–85 weeks)	Half layer 2nd lay value
Molted hen (86–115 weeks)	Half layer 2nd lay value
Spent one-cycle hen (86+ weeks)	Assigned .01
Spent molted hen (116+ weeks)	Assigned .01

Spent hen at 86 weeks reference: Karcher, Darrin and Joy Mench, "Overview of commercial poultry production systems and their main welfare challenges" in *Advances in Poultry Welfare*, Woodhead Publishing Series in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition 2018, pages 3–25.

⁸ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/publications/content/cage-free-verification-usda-graded-shell-eggs>

Subcategories for elk not included in commercial indemnity tables

North American Elk Breeders Association provided the data for the elk superior cow and elk bull categories. The indemnity values are calculated using comprehensive data from auctions, private transactions, and sale barns across the United States. Common cows less than 1 year old are valued half of common cows 1 year and older. Superior cows 14 years and older are considered less productive⁹ and valued half the value of more productive animals. Bulls 7 years and older are considered mature bulls¹⁰.

One of the following is required to differentiate superior cows from common cows:

- Documentation proving the cow has NAEBA Gold or Silver registration
- Documentation that the cow was purchased for more than the Superior Elk Cow table value
- Documentation that the cow was sired by a bull with an antler score of 400 inches or more
- Documentation that the value for all cows sold from the herd in the last 12 to 24 months averaged more than the maximum indemnity value for cows
- Test report indicating the cow has a desirable genotype, such as 132LM or 132LL (when Genomically Estimated Breeding Value (GEBV) testing becomes commercially available for elk a GEBV score below the APHIS established cutoff will be required), which decreases susceptibility to Chronic Wasting Disease

Values Calculated from Publicly Available, Nationally Representative Online Sources

These values were calculated using online sources that are nationally representative of two broad categories of backyard poultry: standard fowl and exotic fowl. These online sources are the catalogs posted by national hatcheries—Murray McMurray, Stromberg Chickens, Meyer Farms, and Metzger Farms¹¹—for most varieties of backyard fowl. Backyard fowl values are for non-commercial production of less than 500 birds.

Within each category of backyard poultry, bird indemnity values are further segregated by age and, for standard fowl, by weight. The age groupings include fertilized eggs, young birds less than one-month old, juvenile birds which are fully feathered but not capable of reproducing yet, and adult birds. The basic formulas for calculating each age group are listed below:

Fertilized eggs = Day old values * Hatch rate %

Young birds = Day old values

Juvenile birds = Day old values + [Cost of feed to bring to adult weight / 2]

Adult birds = Day old values + Cost of feed to bring to adult weight

Values are calculated by combining the base price per young bird at national hatcheries with the costs of feed incurred when raising a bird. The resulting values are presented in Table 1.

⁹ https://elkusa.com/elk_farming and https://animalrangeextension.montana.edu/wildlife/private_land_wildlife_mgmt/elk-mgmt.html

¹⁰ https://www.naelk.org/elk_facts.cfm

¹¹ Metzger Farms breeds and sells only waterfowl (ducks and geese) and meat-production chickens. Only their waterfowl prices are relevant to the calculations discussed herein. Meat production poultry is captured in the Commercial Indemnity Table.

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