

COMPARING GMS AND NON-GMS LOTS ON THE KANSAS GRID

In August 2024, National Beef was the first packer to offer a grid premium for cattle with genetic merit above the industry average. Cattle enrolled in AngusLink® Genetic Merit Scorecard® (GMS) with a Beef Score of 100 to 149 — where 100 represents the industry average — qualify for a \$5 per head premium on the USPB grid. Lots that score 150 or greater receive a \$10 per head premium.

For more information, [Click Here](#) for a fact sheet with more details.

During the first two quarters of fiscal year 2026, 2,494 head were delivered on the USPB grid that qualified for a GMS premium. Grid results for the GMS steer lots are listed in Table I (page 2), along with the overall average of all other USPB steer lots of conventionally raised cattle harvested during the same time span.

In the table, the “Other premium” line includes the GMS premium and the \$1 per head payment for low-frequency electronic identification (EID) tags, regardless of whether they are enrolled in GMS. This is why the non-GMS lots still show some amounts in the “Other premium” line as it is from the EID payment.

The GMS steers had \$44.19 more premium per head. This premium was lower than previous summaries as quality rewards on the grid were lower during the first two quarters. However, GMS steers maintained a strong advantage in total dollars per head as they were worth \$155.30 more in actual value per head on the grid.

These results showcase the value of genetics, and confirm these cattle were genetically designed to excel on the USPB grid. The GMS premium is an added bonus on their overall premium.

Ranchers who sell feeders are encouraged to tag calves with low-frequency EID tags, enroll and then market

their approved calves. Feedlots can then purchase those feeder cattle and market them on the USPB grid. Ranchers who retain ownership and market on the USPB grid are encouraged to enroll as well.

Enrollment is simple, affordable and does not require an on-site audit. When enrolled, all calves in a calf crop receive the same score based on the Expected Progeny Differences of all bulls in the bull battery that produced that crop of calves.

Cattle feeders who purchase calves and feeder cattle can find groups already enrolled and know their Beef Score, especially on video auctions. The higher the Beef Score, the more genetic potential for carcass traits, post-weaning growth and feed efficiency.

Feedlots that intend to deliver are asked to submit a GMS Showlist Form A two weeks prior to harvest. This allows time to collect the EID tag numbers from IMI Global which are needed to verify enrollment during processing at either the Dodge City or Liberal plants. GMS lots with EID tags also qualify for the \$1 per head EID payment.

In total, since the start of the GMS premium, 13,982 head of USPB cattle have been delivered in lots that received an added premium for GMS. Those cattle have averaged \$178.79/head total premium. Some lots are not 100% GMS verified. In other words, some lots have GMS enrolled cattle together with non-enrolled cattle.

The EID tags are used to verify enrollment and to determine the premium based on the GMS score. This allows for greater flexibility for the feedyards delivering and for the National Beef plants.

The GMS premium is exclusively offered on the USPB Kansas grid. Please call if you have any questions. ♦

Table I. Genetic Merit Score Summary

Dec. 28, 2025-June 27, 2026	GMS Lots	USPB non-GMS lots
In Weight	820	798
Days Fed	191	207
Live Weight	1,556	1,533
Carcass Weight	996	985
Yield, %	64.00	64.25
Prime, %	48.86	8.20
Choice & Prime, %	99.55	90.77
CAB (Choice), %	31.59	25.38
Over 30 months, %	0.89	3.28
Yield Grade 1, %	0.88	4.51
Yield Grade 2, %	18.08	26.77
Yield Grade 3, %	53.24	44.29
Yield Grade 4, %	24.46	20.71
Yield Grade 5, %	3.33	3.72
Lightweight, 625/dn, %	0.14	0.08
Heavyweight, 1101/up, %	9.07	14.10
Quality Grade premium/head	\$67.70	\$22.41
Yield Benefit/head	\$41.66	\$56.24
Yield Grade premium/head	-\$16.26	-\$12.09
Outweight discount/head	-\$8.99	-\$17.71
Steer premium/head	\$15.68	\$15.45
Subtotal Premium/head	\$99.79	\$64.30
Other premium/head	\$8.98	\$0.27
Overall Premium/head	\$108.77	\$64.57
Top 75% Premium/head	\$138.19	\$88.57
Top 50% Premium/head	\$163.68	\$107.29
Top 25% Premium/head	\$188.10	\$130.49
Total \$/head value	\$3,975.82	\$3,820.52
Steer, %	97.78	98.11
Black-hided %	95.96	78.06
Total cond. liver %	25.29	38.34
Open abscess liver %	4.37	5.99