

## The purpose of beef farming

People farm beef because they want to make a profit and use the steep hilly terrain that is unwanted by dairy farming. Beef farmers aim to get the beef cattle as fat as possible and in as short amount of time as possible because it will give them a higher profit. Beef farmers do this by giving their cattle higher quality feed and a higher quantity of feed. Some beef farms also have sheep on them because they work well together as the beef cattle eat and shorten the grass and then the sheep can come in and eat the rest of it, which also the farmer more profit.

The reason lots of beef farms are on hills instead of the nice flat land is because flat land has a higher value. The flat land is used for dairy farms as it is more profitable and pay off the flat land quicker.

## The areas of beef production

The areas beef is farmed is mostly steep topography e.g. lots of up and down landscape. Because of this, it is unfit for dairy farming so beef cattle are perfect for the steep country.



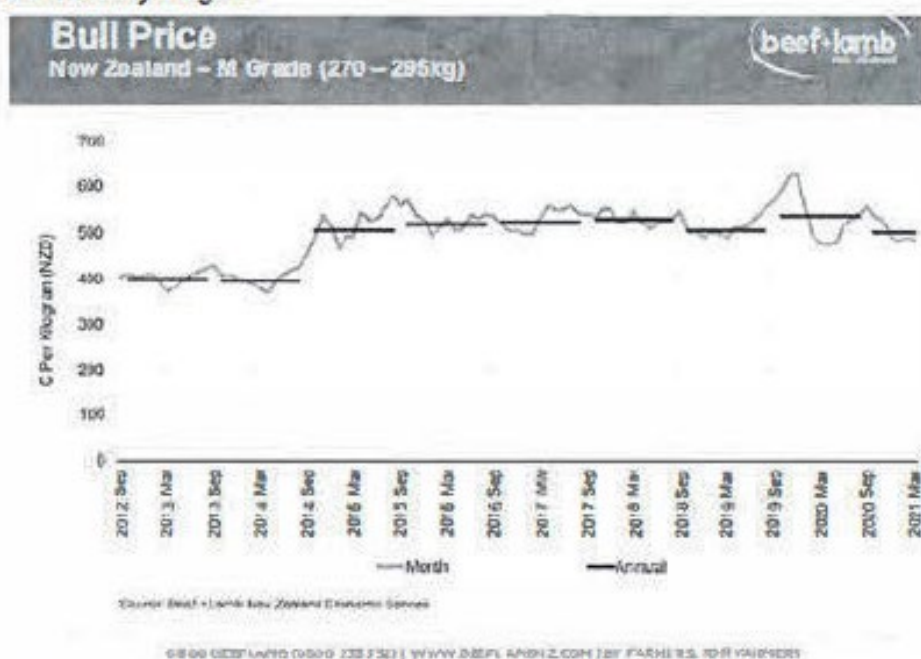
## Growing conditions

The growing conditions are important for beef farming as lots of rain and barely any sunshine can lead to the grass not growing as well because it will become pugged and will flood as the water cannot drain away. These conditions will end up affecting the farmer's beef animal's growth rate as they aren't grazing long, lush pastures full of the needed nutrients. Taranaki's soil is great for growing things like grass as it has heaps of ash from thousands of years ago from Mt Taranaki erupting.

Having a water trough at the top of a hill isn't a good idea because the cattle most likely won't want to go up there as the nice grass is more likely to be on the lower parts of the hill. Having some flatter areas in your paddocks can help with animal growth rate as the beef cattle don't have to traverse such rough terrain to get to the grass.

## The factors that influence beef farming

The market is a huge factor for beef farming because if there is no demand for beef then the price will drop and the farmers won't get paid as much per kg and will have to start thinking of a different way to make some income. The higher the demand for exporting beef the more the farmer will get paid per kg. The more farms there are producing beef the lower the demand as supermarkets and other places will already have heaps in stock. If there were fewer beef farms or something happened to lots of cattle, the demand will go up because there would be less being produced and won't be as easy to get.



This shows what the beef price was like back in 2012 all the way to 2021. The annual price of per kg of beef had peaked at about 550c per beef animal weighing 270-295kg. The more likely cause of price going up is the higher demand or fewer farms producing beef

### Climate for Taranaki

Median Annual Sunshine hours	1900 2100
Median Annual Rainfall	1250 4000
Median Annual temperature	10-12 Celsius

The climate is a significant factor for beef farming. Taranaki has a great climate for its beef farming as Taranaki gets on average about 1250 to 4000 mm of rainfall and gets about 1900 to 2100 hours of sunshine and gets a median temperature of about 10 to 12 Celsius. The climate where the beef farm is important as if it gets too cold the grass won't grow and the farmer won't be able to get the cattle heavy enough to get money for them.

The distance between the beef farm and the processing plant matters as it costs money for the truck to come pick up your animals and transport them to the facility. Some beef farms might have their own butchery and so they don't have to spend their money on transport.

Access to workers can be a big help as it helps take some of the workload off of the farmer and lets the farmer do the more important jobs on the farm.

### Summary of factors

In my opinion, the market is the biggest factor as without a demand there is no point in doing it as most likely you aren't going to be making a profit.

The climate is the second biggest factor as without the ability to grow good pastures and having to spend heaps of money on bales or other food sources for your cattle then you might not make a big profit off beef.

The third biggest factor is how far the farm is from the processing plant as if its too far away the farmer is going to have to pay more to transport the animals there.

The fourth biggest factor is being able to find workers as workers take some of the work load off the farmer. Also being able to find worker to run a home butchery to make your own produce would take away the need for the animal transport fee.