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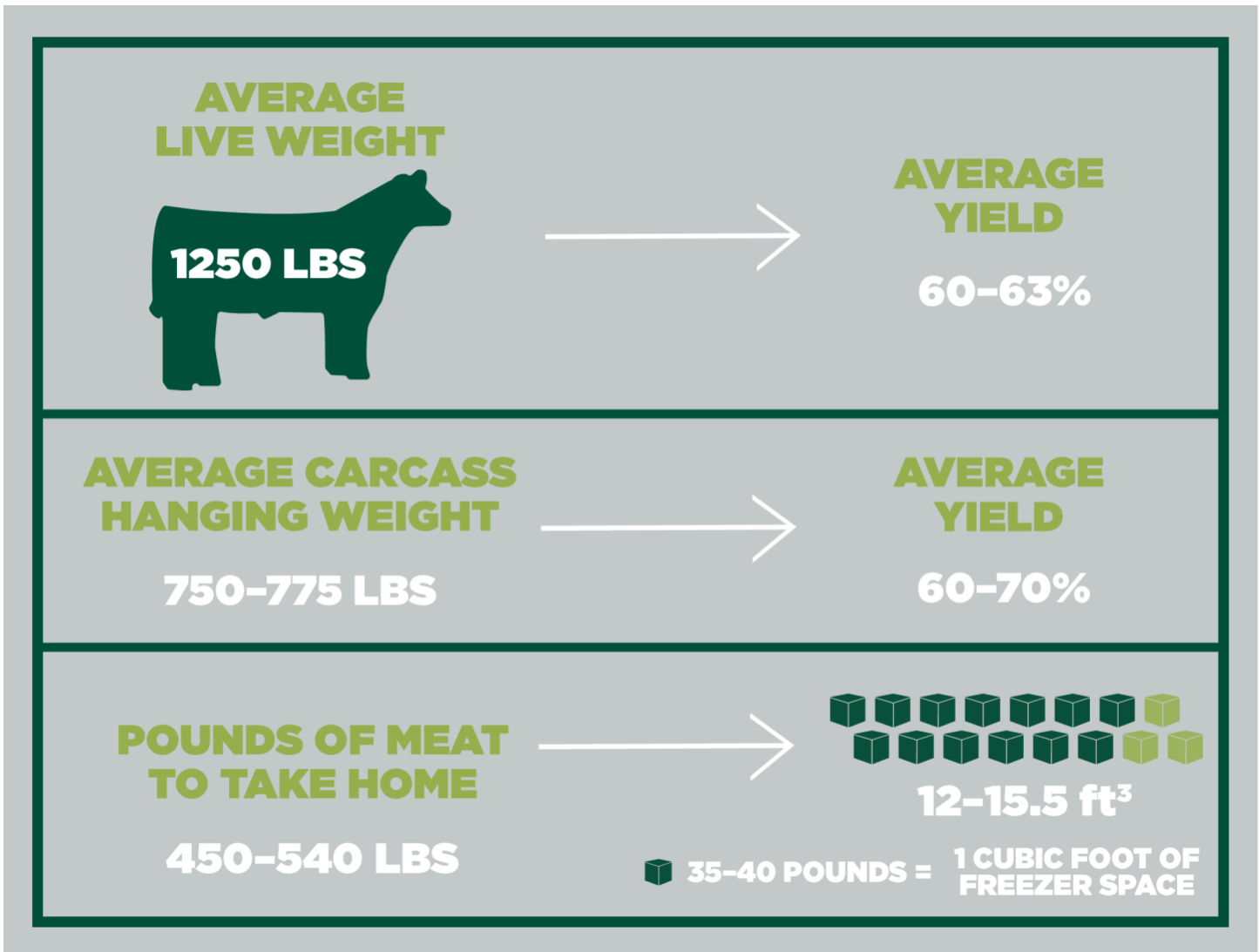


Figure 1. Approximate pounds of take-home meat from a 1250 pound live beef animal.

Processing

The interactive [map of meat processing and slaughter facilities in Michigan](#) can help you find a processor. The map lists many of them, including those that are U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspected. Custom-exempt meat processors are not required to have a federal inspector present when they process meat only for the owner(s) of the live animal. When custom-exempt processing is used, the hanging carcass weight can still be used for final pricing, but the sale must be documented for the live animal. The owner of the live animal accepts responsibility for having the animal harvested without federal inspection. When using custom-exempt processors, **you may not sell or donate packages of meat and each package is marked “not for sale.”** If you choose to resell or donate individual packages, you must use a USDA-inspected processor. You must schedule a time for your animal to be processed. Most processors have appointments scheduled months to a year in advance. Knowing what cutting services and packaging options are available by the processor will also be important in helping your buyer understand what products they may want from the animal they

To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).