

BLUESTEM PASTURE RELEASE



In Cooperation with the National
Agriculture Statistics Service.

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Bluestem pasture condition in the Flint Hills region is rated at 86 percent of normal, going into the 2007 grazing season. As of April 22, topsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to surplus across the Bluestem region. Sources of stock water being used are: ponds, 58 percent; streams, 26 percent; wells, 9 percent; and spring developments, 7 percent. Water supplies are rated adequate to surplus, with 90 percent reporting adequate or better supplies.

The percentage of available pasture already contracted, as of mid-April, stood at 98 percent. Of the acres contracted, 50 percent are under full summer season contracts, 25 percent under partial-season contracts, and 25 percent leased for the full year. Partial season grazing may include both early intensive grazing and three-quarter length season reports. The average grazing season start date for full summer season contracts is April 24. The average ending date for the grazing season is October 17. The average starting date for partial season or intensive grazing is April 23. The average number of grazing days for steers and heifers under 700 pounds is 96 days.

Partial season contracts have been broken into two categories: contracts with ninety grazing days or less and contracts with more than ninety grazing days.

Partial season contracts with ninety grazing days or less reported an average per acre lease rate of \$23.50 where care is provided and \$19.50 where no care is provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$60.90 with a guarantee of 2.4 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$54.90 with 2.8 acres guaranteed.

The average price per acre for partial season contracts of more than ninety days was \$23.00 per acre where care is provided and \$20.40 per acre where no care is provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$69.10 with a guarantee of 3.7 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$55.40 with 3.5 acres guaranteed.

When the stocking rate is based on pounds of live cattle per acre, for a full summer season the average beginning weight is 616 pounds. The average beginning weight for a partial summer season is 565 pounds. The average live pounds per acre for a full summer season is 324 pounds and for a partial summer season the average is 318 live pounds per acre. For a full summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$18.70. For a partial summer season, the average price per acre without care is \$17.20. There were not enough reports to publish a price for full summer season without care and partial summer season with care when the stocking rate is based on pounds of live cattle per acre.

Seventeen reports indicated contracts based on price per pound of gain. Prices varied from 10 to 60 cents per pound of gain and averaged 37 cents.

The average lease rate per cow with calf reported under full year leasing arrangements is \$140.00 with 8.8 acres guaranteed. Lease rates on a per acre basis averaged \$16.20 for the full year.

In winter stocker grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$6.10 per head per month with 3.9 acres guaranteed. For winter cow grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$8.30 per head per month with 7.3 acres guaranteed.

Forty-six percent of the respondents reported burning of pastures, down 17 percentage points from last year. The average burning date was April 9.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in full summer season leasing arrangements are reported as follows: burning, 74 percent; fence maintenance, 88 percent; guaranteed count, 34 percent; salt, 65 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 10 percent.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in partial summer season leasing arrangements are reported as follows: burning, 82 percent; fence maintenance, 92 percent; guaranteed count, 43 percent; salt, 67 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 11 percent.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2007, Full Summer Season Contracts

Type of Lease	Average Lease Price per Head for Full Summer Season (Dollars)							Price for Pastures Rented on Per Acre Basis
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs			
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds or More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average for Pairs	
NORTHERN ZONE^{1/}								
With Service	71.00	86.60	81.80	94.30	127.10	125.70	126.00	17.30
Without Service	65.40	67.60	66.80	79.80	125.90	127.50	127.00	17.50
Combined Average Lease Rate	67.00	73.90	71.50	83.80	126.10	127.00	126.80	17.50
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}								
With Service	65.00	75.00	71.70	91.30	^{2/}	142.80	144.00	21.30
Without Service	44.40	55.00	49.50	64.60	133.70	130.30	131.40	18.40
Combined Average Lease Rate	49.60	63.60	57.20	75.30	135.50	134.20	134.50	18.90
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}								
With Service	64.80	66.50	66.00	76.70	112.00	128.20	123.00	20.90
Without Service	57.00	62.40	61.20	61.70	116.40	115.00	115.30	15.20
Combined Average Lease Rate	60.10	63.80	62.90	69.20	114.90	118.30	117.40	15.80
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Service	67.00	75.10	72.60	87.80	123.30	131.30	129.30	19.50
Without Service	55.60	62.80	60.30	71.20	126.20	123.70	124.40	17.20
Combined Average Lease Rate	59.20	67.20	64.50	77.40	125.50	125.80	125.70	17.60

^{1/}Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map.

^{2/}Insufficient reports to publish.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2007, Partial Summer Season Contracts

Type of Lease	Average Lease Price per Head for Full Summer Season (Dollars)				Price for Pastures Rented on Per Acre Basis
	Steers and Heifers				
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds or More	
NORTHERN ZONE^{1/}					
With Service	^{2/}	63.20	62.90	64.20	21.80
Without Service	^{2/}	49.70	49.40	^{2/}	18.20
Combined Average Lease Rate	52.30	58.10	57.20	62.90	19.20
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}					
With Service	67.30	64.30	65.20	^{2/}	22.40
Without Service	53.20	54.60	54.10	^{2/}	19.90
Combined Average Lease Rate	60.90	60.90	60.90	68.30	20.50
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}					
With Service	56.00	66.60	63.40	^{2/}	21.60
Without Service	56.00	56.80	56.60	^{2/}	17.40
Combined Average Lease Rate	56.00	60.90	59.70	^{2/}	18.50
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA					
With Service	60.10	64.60	63.50	77.80	22.00
Without Service	52.60	54.40	54.00	61.00	18.50
Combined Average Lease Rate	56.60	59.70	58.90	70.20	19.40

^{1/}Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map.

^{2/}Insufficient reports to publish.

Custom Fence Building Rates

The rate charged for building a five-wire, all steel post fence, including materials, averaged \$19.90 per rod. The rate excluding materials averaged \$9.30 per rod.

Average hourly rates charged for fence building are \$21.50 per hour without equipment, and \$39.70 per hour with equipment.

Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates & Percent Leased, 2002-2007^{1/}

Years	Average Lease Price per Head for Full Summer Season							Price of Pastures Rented on Per Acre Basis	Pastures Leased by Mid-April
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs				
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds or More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average For Pairs		
	-----Dollars-----								Percent
2002	62.50	62.80	62.70	78.30	109.50	107.80	108.30	16.90	95
2003	62.30	67.20	65.50	79.80	115.20	108.60	110.50	16.30	97
2004	58.50	66.10	63.00	75.80	111.90	109.20	110.00	16.70	97
2006	68.20	67.80	67.90	85.40	120.60	118.90	119.40	17.60	97
2007	59.20	67.20	64.50	77.40	125.50	125.80	125.70	17.60	98

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2005 survey.

Bluestem Pasture Rental Acreage Guarantees, Condition, & Cattle Prices, 2002-2007^{1/}

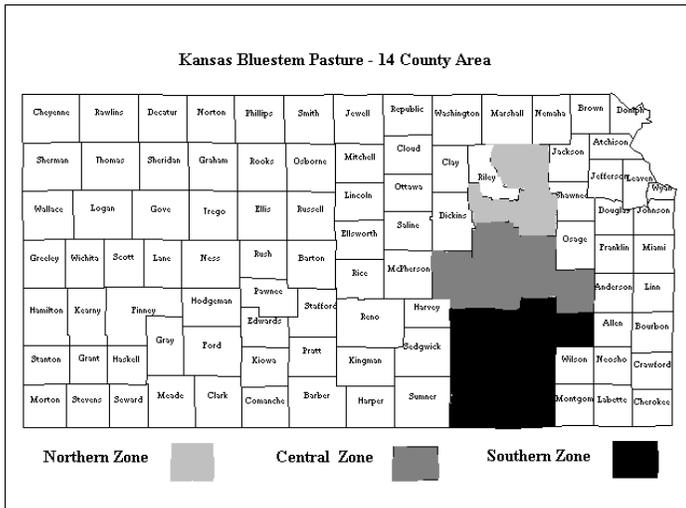
Year	Average Acres of Grass Guaranteed per Head For Full Summer Season							Pasture Conditions Percent of Normal Mid-April	Prices Received by Farmers during February Per 100 Pounds	
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs				Beef Cattle	Calves
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds Or More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average For Pairs			
	-----Acres-----							Percent	Dollars	
2002	3.8	4.1	4.0	5.1	7.6	7.4	7.5	62	72.60	107.00
2003	3.8	3.9	3.9	5.0	7.5	7.3	7.4	82	78.00	99.30
2004	3.8	4.1	3.9	5.1	7.9	7.2	7.2	89	79.30	116.00
2006	4.0	4.2	4.2	5.3	8.0	7.9	7.9	80	92.80	147.00
2007	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.4	8.0	8.0	8.0	86	90.40	122.00

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2005 survey.

Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates & Acreage Guarantees, Partial Summer Season, 2002-2007^{1/}

Year	Average Lease Price per Head for Partial Season (Dollars)				Average Acres of Grass Guaranteed per Head				
	Steers and Heifers				Steers and Heifers				
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds or More	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds or More	
2002	50.50	52.90	52.30	59.60	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.6	
2003	49.20	53.50	52.30	65.30	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.7	
2004	52.60	54.10	53.60	62.40	2.5	2.8	2.7	3.1	
2006	51.00	55.70	54.40	69.50	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.5	
2007	56.60	59.70	58.90	70.20	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2005 survey.



Full Year Leasing

	Cows With Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves
Avg. Lease Price per Head	141.50	138.90
Avg. Acres Guaranteed per Head	8.9	8.7
Price for Pasture Rented On Per Acre Basis	16.20	

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Range of Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2006. Full Summer Season^{1/}

Type of Lease	Lease Price Range per Head for Season (Dollars)							Price for Pastures Rented on Per Acre Basis
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs			
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds Or More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average For Pairs	
NORTHERN ZONE^{2/}								
With Service	50-90	65-100	50-100	80-115	88-161	67-195	67-195	11-25
Without Service	28-85	17-100	17-100	66-104	63-175	80-200	63-200	10-24
Combined Average Lease Rate	28-90	17-100	17-100	66-115	63-175	67-200	63-200	10-25
CENTRAL ZONE^{2/}								
With Service	55-80	60-90	55-90	65-110	^{3/}	60-200	60-200	15-33
Without Service	20-72	21-82	20-82	23-100	40-180	38-200	38-200	15-23
Combined Average Lease Rate	20-80	21-90	20-90	23-110	40-180	38-200	38-200	15-33
SOUTHERN ZONE^{2/}								
With Service	60-72	50-85	50-85	65-85	60-150	90-185	60-185	16-48
Without Service	50-75	50-80	50-80	50-75	75-150	75-170	75-170	10-20
Combined Average Lease Rate	50-75	50-85	50-85	50-85	60-150	75-185	60-185	10-48
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Service	50-90	50-100	50-100	65-115	60-161	60-200	60-200	11-48
Without Service	20-85	17-100	17-100	23-104	40-180	38-200	38-200	10-25
Combined Average Lease Rate	20-90	17-100	17-100	23-115	40-180	38-200	38-200	10-48

^{1/}Range is defined as those values between which 80 percent of the reported lease rates fall.

^{2/}Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map.

^{3/}Insufficient reports to publish.