

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 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 19 percent adequate, 54 percent good, and 24 percent excellent going into the 2008 grazing season. As of April 20, topsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to surplus across the Bluestem region. Sources of stock water being used are: ponds, 59 percent; streams, 28 percent; wells, 8 percent; and spring developments, 5 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 97 percent. Of the acres contracted, 49 percent are under full summer season contracts, 31 percent under partial-season contracts, and 20 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 23. The average ending date for the grazing season is October 11. 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 105 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 \$28.00 where care is provided and \$21.20 where no care is provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$67.40 with a guarantee of 2.4 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$52.90 with 2.7 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 \$19.20 per acre where no care is provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$67.80 with a guarantee of 3.0 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$57.10 with 2.9 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 690 pounds. The average beginning weight for a partial summer season is 596 pounds. The average live pounds per acre for a full summer season is 254 pounds and for a partial summer season the average is 258 live pounds per acre. For a full summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$25.00, while the average price per acre without care is \$19.30. For a partial summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$29.30, while the average price per acre without care is \$22.50. There were not enough reports to publish a price for full summer season with care when the stocking rate is based on pounds of live cattle per acre.

Thirty-one reports indicated contracts based on price per pound of gain. Prices varied from 5 to 79 cents per pound of gain and averaged 39 cents.

The average lease rate per cow with calf reported under full year leasing arrangements is \$141.00 with 9.9 acres guaranteed. Lease rates on a per acre basis averaged \$17.80 for the full year.

In winter stocker grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$8.80 per head per month with 3.8 acres guaranteed. For winter cow grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$11.90 per head per month with 7.6 acres guaranteed.

Eighty-four percent of the respondents reported burning of pastures, up 38 percentage points from last year. The average burning date was April 8.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in full summer season leasing arrangements are reported as follows: burning, 75 percent; fence maintenance, 71 percent; guaranteed count, 28 percent; salt, 46 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 12 percent.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in partial summer season leasing arrangements are reported as follows: burning, 83 percent; fence maintenance, 81 percent; guaranteed count, 30 percent; salt, 48 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 13 percent.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2008, 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	86.00	94.50	92.20	105.60	138.30	142.80	141.30	19.90
Without Service	^{2/}	76.20	73.90	92.70	129.80	126.10	127.30	19.60
Combined Average Lease Rate	73.60	82.30	80.80	97.50	131.40	128.80	129.60	19.70
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}								
With Service	84.50	86.40	85.90	^{2/}	142.50	163.90	158.30	21.50
Without Service	69.60	70.60	70.20	88.90	132.90	137.10	136.00	19.40
Combined Average Lease Rate	74.30	77.10	76.10	95.10	135.10	143.40	141.20	19.80
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}								
With Service	64.70	70.90	69.50	^{2/}	133.50	139.40	138.20	20.50
Without Service	59.30	65.00	63.20	81.60	130.70	128.30	129.10	16.80
Combined Average Lease Rate	60.70	67.20	65.30	80.50	131.20	131.40	131.30	17.60
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Service	76.90	80.40	79.50	101.00	137.40	146.20	143.90	20.80
Without Service	63.20	69.00	67.20	86.30	130.80	129.60	129.90	18.40
Combined Average Lease Rate	67.60	73.30	71.60	89.60	132.10	133.30	133.00	19.00

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

^{2/}Insufficient reports to publish.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2008, Partial Summer Season Contracts

Type of Lease	Average Lease Price per Head for Partial 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/}	68.80	66.30	^{2/}	^{2/}	
Without Service	^{2/}	55.40	56.40	^{2/}	^{2/}	19.30
Combined Average Lease Rate	58.30	62.50	61.90	^{2/}	^{2/}	20.90
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}						
With Service	66.80	68.30	67.90	90.70		28.20
Without Service	^{2/}	56.90	55.20	^{2/}	^{2/}	22.20
Combined Average Lease Rate	61.50	62.90	62.60	87.00		23.30
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}						
With Service	66.10	67.40	67.20	77.50		24.70
Without Service	58.80	52.40	54.10	56.10		19.90
Combined Average Lease Rate	61.80	60.80	61.00	67.80		21.20
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA						
With Service	65.30	67.80	67.30	81.90		25.60
Without Service	56.90	54.10	54.70	59.50		20.70
Combined Average Lease Rate	61.40	61.60	61.60	72.10		21.90

^{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 \$19.00 per rod. The rate excluding materials averaged \$10.00 per rod. Additional charges for gates averaged \$84.80.

Additional charges for corners averaged \$94.40. The average hourly rate charged for fence building is \$47.20 per hour with equipment.

Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates & Percent Leased, 2003-2008^{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
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
2008	67.60	73.30	71.60	89.60	132.10	133.30	133.00	19.00	97

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

Bluestem Pasture Rental Acreage Guarantees, Condition, & Cattle Prices, 2003-2008^{1/}

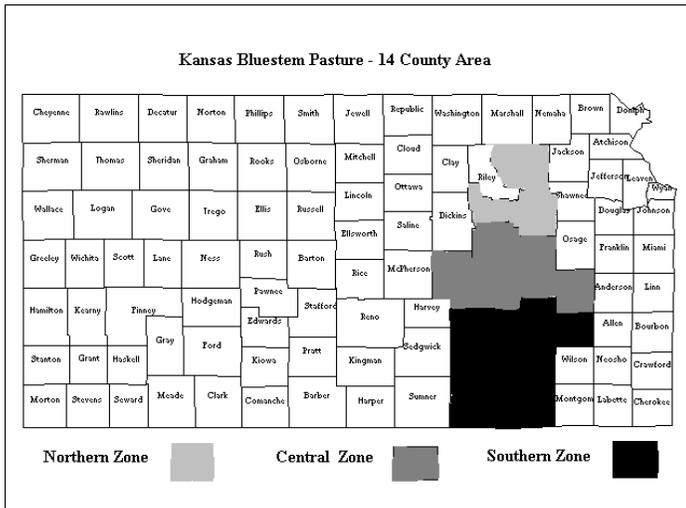
Year	Average Acres of Grass Guaranteed per Head For Full Summer Season							Prices Received by Farmers during February Per 100 Pounds	
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs			Beef Cattle	Calves
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds Or More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average For Pairs		
	-----Acres-----							Dollars	
2003	3.8	3.9	3.9	5.0	7.5	7.3	7.4	78.00	99.30
2004	3.8	4.1	3.9	5.1	7.9	7.2	7.2	79.30	116.00
2006	4.0	4.2	4.2	5.3	8.0	7.9	7.9	92.80	147.00
2007	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.4	8.0	8.0	8.0	90.40	122.00
2008	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.8	8.0	7.6	7.7	92.40	126.00

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

Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates & Acreage Guarantees, Partial Summer Season, 2003-2008^{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
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
2008	61.40	61.60	61.60	72.10	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.5

^{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	140.40	141.50
Avg. Acres Guaranteed per Head	10.2	9.6
Price for Pasture Rented On Per Acre Basis	17.80	

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Range of Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2008. Full Summer Season

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^{1/}								
With Service	60-100	57-125	57-125	90-135	100-200	91-195	91-200	12-25
Without Service	^{2/}	56-115	56-115	80-110	60-180	40-250	40-250	14-25
Combined Average Lease Rate	60-100	56-125	56-125	80-135	60-200	40-250	40-250	12-25
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}								
With Service	65-100	50-120	50-120	^{2/}	65-250	100-250	65-250	20-30
Without Service	45-92	40-100	40-100	36-120	65-220	68-220	65-220	13-25
Combined Average Lease Rate	45-100	40-120	40-120	36-120	65-250	68-250	65-250	13-30
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}								
With Service	40-100	30-100	30-100	^{2/}	65-185	55-200	55-200	11-30
Without Service	18-80	20-170	18-170	60-150	90-211	60-250	60-250	8-27
Combined Average Lease Rate	18-100	20-170	18-170	60-150	65-211	55-250	55-250	8-30
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Service	40-100	30-125	30-125	75-135	65-250	55-250	55-250	11-30
Without Service	18-92	20-170	18-170	36-150	60-220	40-250	40-250	8-27
Combined Average Lease Rate	18-100	20-170	18-170	36-150	60-250	40-250	40-250	8-30

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

^{2/}Insufficient reports to publish.