

BLUESTEM PASTURE



KANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

Fact Finders
For Agriculture

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Bluestem pasture condition in the Flint Hills region is rated at 82 percent of normal, going into the 2003 grazing season. As of April 21, topsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly short to adequate across the bluestem region. Sources of stock water being used are: ponds, 56 percent; streams, 28 percent; wells, 9 percent; and spring developments, 7 percent. Water supplies are rated short to adequate, with 49 percent reporting adequate supplies.

According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture for Kansas, the acreage of pasture lands and rangelands total approximately 4.1 million acres in the Flint Hills region. The percentage of available pasture already contracted, as of mid-April, stood at 97 percent. Of the acres contracted, 60 percent are under full summer season contracts, 19 percent under partial-season contracts, and 21 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, ranging from an early date of April 18 in Chase and Cowley counties to May 2 in Geary County. The average ending date for the grazing season is October 17. The average starting date for partial season or intensive grazing is April 22. The average number of grazing days for steers and heifers under 700 pounds is 95 days.

For 2003, partial season contracts have been broken into two categories: contracts with ninety grazing days or less and contracts with more than ninety grazing days. Table 6 includes all data for both categories to maintain historic comparisons of partial season contracts.

Partial season contracts with ninety grazing days or less reported an average per acre lease rate of \$19.30 where care is provided and \$18.50 where no care is provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$54.30 with a guarantee of 2.3 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$46.30 with 2.5 acres guaranteed.

The average price per acre for partial season contracts of more than ninety days was \$21.21 with care and \$17.00 with no care provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$60.00 with a guarantee of 3.0 acres. Without care, the

price per head averaged \$48.60 with 3.4 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 493 pounds. The average beginning weight for a partial summer season is 550 pounds. The average live pounds per acre for a full summer season is 143 pounds and for a partial summer season the average is 234 live pounds per acre. For a full summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$20.00 and without care is \$16.60. For a partial summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$22.50 and without care is \$19.80.

Thirty-three reports indicated contracts based on price per pound of gain. Prices varied from 20 to 38 cents per pound of gain and averaged 31 cents.

The average lease rate per cow with calf reported under full year leasing arrangements is \$117.90 with 8.5 acres guaranteed. Lease rates on a per acre basis averaged \$15.00 for the full year.

In winter stocker grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$10.30 per head per month with 4.2 acres guaranteed. For winter cow grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$9.90 per head per month with 4.9 acres guaranteed.

Sixty-nine percent of the respondents reported burning of pastures, up 32 percentage points from a year ago. The average burning date was April 10.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in full summer season leasing arrangements are reported as follows: burning, 79 percent; fence maintenance, 91 percent; guaranteed count, 32 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 28 percent.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in partial summer season leasing arrangements are reported as follows: burning, 85 percent; fence maintenance, 88 percent; guaranteed count, 36 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 38 percent.

Table 1--BLUESTEM PASTURE LEASE RATES & PERCENT LEASED, 1999-2003

Year	Average Lease Price per Head for Full Summer Season							Price for Pastures Rented on "Per Acre" Basis	Percent of Pastures Leased 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 -----									
1999	56.00	58.80	57.90	63.80	108.10	100.90	102.90	16.00	96
2000	60.40	63.70	62.30	75.50	115.00	106.50	108.80	16.30	97
2001	59.00	65.50	63.00	75.40	113.60	104.10	107.00	16.30	97
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

Table 2--BLUESTEM PASTURE RENTAL ACREAGE GUARANTEES, CONDITION, & CATTLE PRICES, 1999-2003

Year	Average Acres of Grass Guaranteed per Head for Full Summer Season							Pasture Condition 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 1/	Average for Pairs 1/			
----- Acres -----										
1999	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.7	7.5	7.0	7.2	94	63.80	92.00
2000	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.9	7.6	7.1	7.2	93	70.70	107.00
2001	3.8	4.0	3.9	5.1	7.8	7.2	7.7	87	78.70	107.00
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

1/ 2002 data revised.

Table 3--BLUESTEM PASTURE LEASE RATES & ACREAGE GUARANTEES, SHORT SUMMER SEASON, 1999-2003

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
1999	47.10	48.70	48.10	60.30	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.8
2000	50.90	54.40	53.00	63.90	2.4	2.7	2.6	3.0
2001	51.40	53.40	52.60	58.40	2.6	2.7	2.7	3.2
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

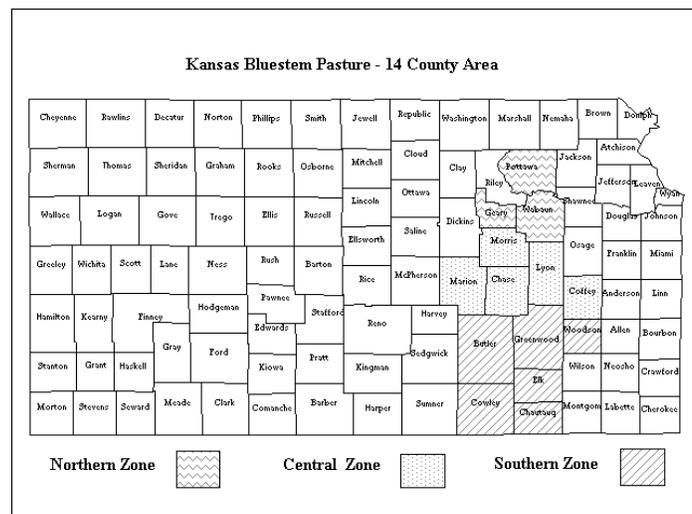


Table 4--FULL YEAR LEASING

	Cows with Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves
Avg. Lease Price per Head	121.10	115.90
Avg. Acres Guaranteed per Head	8.7	8.4
Price for Pastures Rented on 'Per Acre' Basis	15.00	

Table 5--AVERAGE BLUESTEM PASTURE LEASE RATES, 2003, 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	2/	74.60	73.30	2/	126.90	114.30	117.30	16.80
Without Service	62.20	66.30	64.90	77.00	112.40	103.60	106.20	15.60
Combined Average Lease Rate	64.10	69.90	68.30	79.20	114.70	105.80	108.30	15.90
CENTRAL ZONE 1/								
With Service	69.10	73.70	71.90	85.00	114.70	111.30	112.40	17.60
Without Service	56.20	63.60	61.00	77.90	120.60	108.20	111.30	16.70
Combined Average Lease Rate	62.00	67.80	65.70	81.50	118.10	109.30	111.70	16.90
SOUTHERN ZONE 1/								
With Service	63.60	71.20	68.20	2/	119.30	115.70	116.70	16.20
Without Service	60.45	59.10	59.50	2/	113.70	107.30	109.10	15.50
Combined Average Lease Rate	62.10	64.30	63.50	76.30	116.10	110.80	112.30	15.70
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Service	66.40	73.10	70.70	83.60	117.90	114.20	115.30	17.00
Without Service	58.80	62.70	61.40	77.10	113.90	105.90	108.20	16.10
Combined Average Lease Rate	62.30	67.20	65.50	79.80	115.20	108.60	110.50	16.30

1/ Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map, page 2. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish.

Table 6--AVERAGE BLUESTEM PASTURE LEASE RATES, 2003, PARTIAL SUMMER SEASON CONTRACTS

Type of Lease	Average Lease Price per Head for Partial 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	-	52.20	52.20	2/	20.40
Without Service	2/	60.30	53.90	2/	18.00
Combined Average Lease Rate	2/	55.40	53.00	2/	19.10
CENTRAL ZONE 1/					
With Service	53.90	58.30	56.70	2/	20.50
Without Service	45.60	49.20	48.10	2/	18.90
Combined Average Lease Rate	50.90	54.50	53.30	66.30	19.40
SOUTHERN ZONE 1/					
With Service	53.90	56.40	55.80	2/	18.40
Without Service	42.60	48.40	46.60	2/	17.90
Combined Average Lease Rate	48.40	53.00	51.70	63.50	18.10
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA					
With Service	53.90	56.60	55.80	67.50	19.40
Without Service	43.50	49.40	47.60	62.30	18.40
Combined Average Lease Rate	49.20	53.50	52.30	65.30	18.70

1/ Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map, page 2. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish.

CUSTOM FENCE BUILDING RATES

The rate charged for building a five-wire, all steel post fence, including materials, averaged \$8.90 per rod. The rate excluding materials averaged

\$6.45 per rod. Average hourly rates charged for fence building are \$15.10 per hour without equipment, and \$22.50 per hour with equipment.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Table 7--**RANGE OF BLUESTEM PASTURE LEASE RATES, 2003. 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	59-75	62-81	59-81	75-90	100-137	90-126	90-137	10-23
Without Service	53-70	50-80	50-80	60-105	70-140	45-130	45-140	10-21
Combined Average Lease Rate	53-75	50-81	50-81	60-105	70-140	45-130	45-140	10-23
CENTRAL ZONE 2/								
With Service	50-80	55-86	50-86	65-100	75-160	53-140	53-160	10-23
Without Service	45-80	36-88	36-88	60-95	90-140	45-130	45-140	10-22
Combined Average Lease Rate	45-80	36-88	36-88	60-100	75-160	45-140	45-160	10-23
SOUTHERN ZONE 2/								
With Service	42-80	60-90	42-90	65-90	60-144	60-130	60-144	10-22
Without Service	30-80	30-78	30-80	70-80	55-135	45-150	45-150	10-23
Combined Average Lease Rate	30-80	30-90	30-90	65-90	55-144	45-150	45-150	10-23
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Service	42-80	55-90	42-90	65-100	60-160	53-140	53-160	10-23
Without Service	30-80	30-88	30-88	60-105	55-140	45-150	45-150	10-23
Combined Average Lease Rate	30-80	30-90	30-90	60-105	55-160	45-150	45-160	10-23

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, page 2.