

# BLUESTEM PASTURE RELEASE - 2009



In Cooperation with the National  
Agriculture Statistics Service.

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Bluestem pasture condition in the Flint Hills region is rated at 2 percent poor, 18 percent adequate, 57 percent good, and 23 percent excellent going into the 2009 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, 30 percent; wells, 7 percent; and spring developments, 4 percent. Water supplies are rated adequate to surplus, with 92 percent reporting adequate or better supplies.

The percentage of available pasture already contracted, as of mid-April, stood at 96 percent. Of the acres contracted, 52 percent are under full summer season contracts, 29 percent under partial-season contracts, and 19 percent are 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 22. The average ending date for the grazing season is October 15. 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 98 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 \$25.10 where care is provided and \$20.80 where no care is provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$68.20 with a guarantee of 2.5 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$53.10 with 2.6 acres guaranteed.

The average price per acre for partial season contracts of more than ninety days was \$24.90 per acre where care is provided and \$20.00 per acre where no care is provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$67.40 with a guarantee of 3.0 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$58.90 with 3.2 acres guaranteed.

When the stocking rate is based on pounds of live cattle per acre, for a full summer season the average live weight is 772 pounds. The average live weight for a partial summer season is 596 pounds. The average live weight pounds per acre for a full summer season is 257 pounds and for a partial summer season the average is 281 live pounds per acre. For a full summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$20.70, while the average price per acre without care is \$18.40. For a partial summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$30.50, while the average price per acre without care is \$21.10. 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.

Twenty reports indicated contracts based on price per pound of gain. Prices varied from 3 to 84 cents per pound of gain and averaged 40 cents.

The average lease rate per cow with calf reported under full year leasing arrangements is \$137.50 with 8.9 acres guaranteed. Lease rates on a per acre basis averaged \$18.10 for the full year.

In winter stocker grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$9.40 per head per month with 5.2 acres guaranteed. For winter cow grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$12.30 per head per month with 7.5 acres guaranteed.

Seventy-eight percent of the respondents reported burning of pastures, down 6 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, 79 percent; fence maintenance, 84 percent; guaranteed count, 38 percent; salt, 57 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 11 percent.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in partial summer season leasing arrangements are reported as follows: burning, 84 percent; fence maintenance, 88 percent; guaranteed count, 44 percent; salt, 63 percent; and other miscellaneous services, 26 percent.

### Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2009, 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	
<b>NORTHERN ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>								
With Service	<sup>2/</sup>	81.80	81.80	<sup>2/</sup>	125.00	151.70	142.40	20.20
Without Service	68.80	68.80	68.80	<sup>2/</sup>	138.10	125.70	128.80	17.60
Combined Average Lease Rate	<sup>2/</sup>	74.60	73.50	88.50	134.70	130.30	131.50	18.00
<b>CENTRAL ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>								
With Service	99.90	95.20	96.70	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	168.30	164.90	21.60
Without Service	58.40	72.80	65.10	104.50	118.40	133.00	129.20	19.30
Combined Average Lease Rate	69.30	83.50	77.10	120.20	123.70	140.40	136.30	19.70
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>								
With Service	67.50	68.90	68.60	77.00	148.00	152.80	151.10	20.30
Without Service	57.00	60.70	59.60	59.10	117.30	117.50	117.40	17.30
Combined Average Lease Rate	59.40	63.20	62.20	66.60	124.80	125.70	125.40	17.80
<b>14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA</b>								
With Service	85.50	80.80	81.80	90.10	140.50	156.70	151.60	20.80
Without Service	59.10	64.90	62.80	80.10	123.80	124.50	124.30	18.20
Combined Average Lease Rate	65.10	70.90	69.10	83.80	127.60	131.10	130.10	18.60

<sup>1/</sup> Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map. <sup>2/</sup> Insufficient reports to publish.

### Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2009, 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	
<b>NORTHERN ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>					
With Service	<sup>2/</sup>	63.40	63.40	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>
Without Service	<sup>2/</sup>	47.90	45.00	<sup>2/</sup>	21.80
Combined Average Lease Rate	<sup>2/</sup>	54.40	51.60	<sup>2/</sup>	21.50
<b>CENTRAL ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>					
With Service	65.80	68.90	68.00	<sup>2/</sup>	25.30
Without Service	51.70	57.80	56.10	65.90	20.30
Combined Average Lease Rate	58.20	62.80	61.50	<sup>2/</sup>	21.80
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>					
With Service	64.80	69.90	68.40	81.70	22.40
Without Service	51.80	58.20	55.70	55.60	20.00
Combined Average Lease Rate	57.40	64.20	61.80	69.80	20.50
<b>14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA</b>					
With Service	65.20	68.50	67.60	81.70	23.60
Without Service	50.40	56.60	54.60	58.10	20.50
Combined Average Lease Rate	56.60	62.40	60.60	67.00	21.30

<sup>1/</sup> Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map. <sup>2/</sup> Insufficient reports to publish.

### Custom Fence Building Rates

The rate charged for building a five-wire, all steel post fence, including materials, averaged \$20.30 per rod. The rate excluding materials averaged \$11.90 per rod. Additional charges for gates averaged \$66.40. Additional charges for corners averaged \$73.80. The average hourly rate charged for fence building is \$41.50 per hour with equipment.

**Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates & Percent Leased, 2004-2009<sup>1/</sup>**

Year	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
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
2009	65.10	70.90	69.10	83.80	127.60	131.10	130.10	18.60	96

<sup>1/</sup> Funding was not available for the 2005 survey.

**Bluestem Pasture Rental Acreage Guarantees, Condition, & Cattle Prices, 2004-2009<sup>1/</sup>**

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	
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
2009	4.3	3.9	4.0	5.2	8.3	7.4	7.6	82.30	114.00

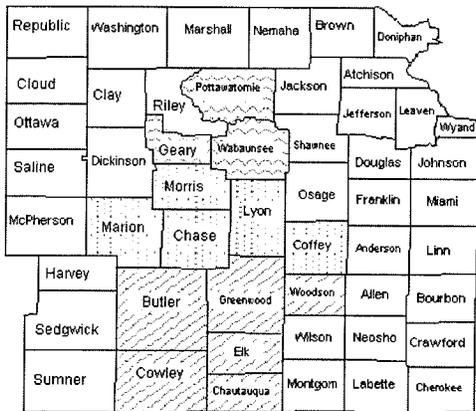
<sup>1/</sup> Funding was not available for the 2005 survey.

**Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates & Acreage Guarantees, Partial Summer Season, 2004-2009<sup>1/</sup>**

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
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
2009	56.60	62.40	60.60	67.00	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.6

<sup>1/</sup> Funding was not available for the 2005 survey.

Kansas Bluestem Pasture - 14 County Area



Northern Zone Central Zone Southern Zone

**Full Year Leasing**

	Cows With Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves
Avg. Lease Price per Head	137.10	137.70
Avg. Acres Guaranteed per Head	9.0	8.8
Price for Pasture Rented On Per Acre Basis		18.10

### Range of Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2009, Full Summer Season

Type of Lease	Lease Price Range per Head for Full 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	
<b>NORTHERN ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>								
With Service	<sup>2/</sup>	50-104	50-104	<sup>2/</sup>	50-175	90-205	50-205	18-26
Without Service	40-85	50-90	40-90	<sup>2/</sup>	90-300	58-200	58-300	10-30
Combined Average Lease Rate	<sup>2/</sup>	50-104	40-104	58-113	50-300	58-205	50-300	10-30
<b>CENTRAL ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>								
With Service	70-122	64-153	64-153	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	140-210	120-210	20-27
Without Service	28-100	45-100	28-100	78-120	25-260	48-245	25-260	13-27
Combined Average Lease Rate	28-122	45-153	28-153	<sup>2/</sup>	25-260	48-245	25-260	13-27
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE<sup>1/</sup></b>								
With Service	60-75	50-85	50-85	60-105	90-185	100-225	90-225	13-25
Without Service	25-80	25-80	25-80	25-75	25-185	25-200	25-200	10-25
Combined Average Lease Rate	25-80	25-85	25-85	25-105	25-185	25-225	25-225	10-25
<b>14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA</b>								
With Service	60-122	50-153	50-153	58-183	50-185	90-225	50-225	13-27
Without Service	25-100	25-100	25-100	25-120	25-300	25-245	25-300	10-30
Combined Average Lease Rate	25-122	25-153	25-153	25-183	25-300	25-245	25-300	10-30

<sup>1/</sup> Zones are defined on the Kansas Bluestem Pasture map. <sup>2/</sup> Insufficient reports to publish.