

BLUESTEM PASTURE RELEASE - 2013



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At the beginning of the 2013 Bluestem Pasture grazing season, pasture condition in the Flint Hills region of Kansas is rated as 16 percent very poor, 41 percent poor, 34 percent adequate, 8 percent good, and only 1 percent excellent. As of May 5, topsoil moisture conditions were rated as mostly adequate across the Bluestem region with more surplus in southern and eastern areas.

Sources being used for **stock water** are: ponds, 56 percent; streams or springs, 27 percent; wells, 11 percent; and spring developments, 6 percent. Kansas stock water supplies on May 5 were rated as 22 percent very short, 26 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

The percentage of **available pasture already contracted**, as of mid-April stood at 97 percent. Of the acres contracted, 46 percent are under full summer season contracts, 34 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 24 and the average ending date is October 17. The average starting date for partial season or intensive grazing is April 23. The average number of grazing days for partial summer season contracts for steers and heifers under 700 pounds is 95 days while the average grazing days for all cows is 112 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 lease rate of \$27.90 per acre where care is provided and \$23.10 where care is not provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$79.90 with a guarantee of 2.8 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$63.60 with 3.0 acres guaranteed.

The average price per acre for partial season contracts of **more than ninety days** was \$22.60 per acre where care is provided and \$19.50 per acre where care is not provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$77.00 with a guarantee of 3.3 acres. Without care, the price per head averaged \$69.40 with 3.9 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 599 pounds. The average beginning weight for a partial summer season is 569 pounds. The average live pounds per acre for a full summer season are 287 pounds and for a partial summer season the average is 284 live pounds per acre. For a full summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$25.90, while the average price per acre without care is \$21.00. For a partial summer season, the average price per acre with care is \$28.40, while the average price per acre without care is \$23.10.

Contracts based on **price per pound of gain** averaged 42 cents per pound of gain. Prices varied from 5 to 70 cents.

The average **full year** lease rate per cow with calf is \$171.60 with 9.4 acres guaranteed. Full year lease rates on a per acre basis averaged \$19.30 for the full year.

In **winter** stocker grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$8.60 per head per month with 4.2 acres guaranteed. For winter cow grazing arrangements, the average reported price is \$11.50 per head per month with 8.7 acres guaranteed.

Only 8 percent of the respondents reported **burning** of pastures, down from 78 percent in 2009. The average burning date was April 12.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in **full summer** season leasing arrangements were: burning, 89 percent; fence maintenance, 99 percent; guaranteed count, 39 percent; salt, 61 percent; and other miscellaneous services including minerals, weed control, etc., 21 percent.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in **partial summer** season leasing arrangements were: burning, 89 percent; fence maintenance, 98 percent; guaranteed count, 39 percent; salt, 60 percent; and other miscellaneous services including minerals, weed control, etc., 18 percent.

The rate charged for building a five-wire, all steel post **fence**, including materials, averaged \$25.40 per rod. The rate excluding materials averaged \$17.70 per rod. Additional charges for gates averaged \$89.30 and corners averaged \$106.80. The average hourly rate charged for fence building is \$63.10 per hour with equipment and \$26.30 without.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2013, Full Summer Season Contracts

Type of Lease	Average Lease Price per Head (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 Care	^{2/}	102.10	102.70	^{2/}	172.60	202.20	193.90	24.20
Without Care	^{2/}	71.70	75.90	82.60	147.50	142.10	143.50	19.50
Combined Average Lease Rate	91.80	86.00	87.50	^{2/}	151.70	151.00	151.20	20.70
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}								
With Care	101.30	109.20	106.50	^{2/}	^{2/}	160.60	176.00	24.80
Without Care	79.40	93.60	89.20	98.50	130.30	149.80	145.10	21.10
Combined Average Lease Rate	90.30	100.70	97.30	^{2/}	144.90	151.60	150.00	21.80
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}								
With Care	85.70	90.20	88.90	95.50	163.50	174.10	170.40	21.90
Without Care	60.00	71.50	68.90	77.00	143.90	146.00	145.40	20.10
Combined Average Lease Rate	71.70	78.30	76.60	86.30	149.80	153.00	152.00	20.40
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Care	96.60	101.10	99.70	95.50	176.20	178.20	177.60	23.70
Without Care	74.20	79.80	78.30	87.60	141.60	145.70	144.60	20.40
Combined Average Lease Rate	84.40	88.80	87.50	89.10	149.30	151.90	151.20	21.10

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

^{2/}Insufficient reports to publish.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates, 2013, Partial Summer Season Contracts

Type of Lease	Average Lease Price per Head (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 Care	^{2/}	76.50	76.50	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}
Without Care	^{2/}	84.70	84.70	^{2/}	^{2/}	24.80
Combined Average Lease Rate	^{2/}	80.60	80.60	^{2/}	^{2/}	24.90
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}						
With Care	69.30	81.90	78.70	^{2/}	^{2/}	28.20
Without Care	63.60	70.60	68.00	^{2/}	^{2/}	23.50
Combined Average Lease Rate	66.20	77.40	74.00	^{2/}	^{2/}	25.90
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}						
With Care	72.10	80.20	79.00	108.10		24.70
Without Care	62.50	61.80	61.90	74.00		20.60
Combined Average Lease Rate	67.30	72.10	71.40	91.10		22.10
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA						
With Care	70.70	80.30	78.70	103.10		26.30
Without Care	63.10	67.30	66.40	78.10		22.00
Combined Average Lease Rate	66.70	74.60	73.20	88.80		23.70

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

^{2/}Insufficient reports to publish.

Bluestem Pasture Full Summer Season Lease Rates & Percent Leased, 2006-2009, 2013^{1/}

Years	Average Lease Price per Head							Price for Pastures Rented on Per Acre Basis	Pastures Leased by Mid-April Percent
	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-----								
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
2013	84.40	88.80	87.50	88.40	149.30	151.90	151.20	21.10	97

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012 surveys.

Bluestem Pasture Full Summer Season Acreage Guarantees, 2006-2009, 2013^{1/}

Year	Average Acres of Grass Guaranteed per Head							
	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	
	-----Acres-----							
2006	4.0	4.2	4.2	5.3	8.0	7.9	7.9	
2007	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.4	8.0	8.0	8.0	
2008	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.8	8.0	7.6	7.7	
2009	4.3	3.9	4.0	5.2	8.3	7.4	7.6	
2013	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	

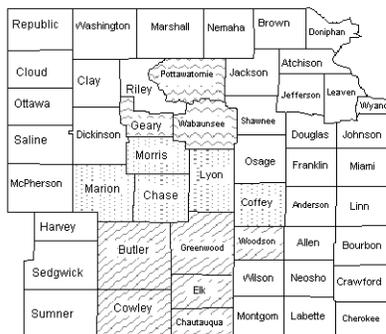
^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012 surveys.

Bluestem Pasture Partial Summer Season Lease Rates & Acreage Guarantees, 2006-2009, 2013^{1/}

Year	Average Lease Price per Head (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
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
2013	66.70	74.60	73.20	88.80	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.9

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012 surveys.

Kansas Bluestem Pasture - 14 County Area



Northern Zone Central Zone Southern Zone

Full Year Pasture Leasing, 2013

	Cows With Fall Calves	Cows With Spring Calves	All Cow/Calf Pairs
Average Lease Price per Head (Dollars)	179.20	166.50	171.60
Average Acres Guaranteed per Head	9.7	9.3	9.4
	Dollars		
Price for Pasture Rented On Per Acre Basis		19.30	

Custom Fence Building Rates, 2013

Type	Steel Post Only	Steel and Wood Posts
Dollars per Rod		
5 Wire Including Materials	25.40	30.50
5 Wire Excluding Materials	17.70	14.60
Dollars		
Additional Charge for Gates		89.30
Additional Charge for Corners		106.80
Average Hourly Rate With Equipment		63.10
Average Hourly Rate Without Equipment		26.30

^{1/}Insufficient reports to publish.

Range of Bluestem Pasture Full Summer Season Lease Rates, 2013

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 Care	^{2/}	67-130	^{2/}	^{2/}	133-250	100-325	100-325	14-40
Without Care	65-140	50-108	50-140	60-100	75-250	75-210	75-250	8-30
Combined Average Lease Rate	^{2/}	50-130	^{2/}	^{2/}	75-250	75-325	75-325	8-40
CENTRAL ZONE^{1/}								
With Care	40-160	60-181	40-181	^{2/}	^{2/}	100-290	100-290	13-40
Without Care	40-140	60-150	40-150	70-150	73-230	75-250	73-250	15-32
Combined Average Lease Rate	40-160	60-181	40-181	^{2/}	^{2/}	75-290	73-290	13-40
SOUTHERN ZONE^{1/}								
With Care	65-126	60-150	60-150	70-123	90-270	90-350	90-350	10-40
Without Care	45-70	35-112	35-112	60-100	75-200	60-270	60-270	8-30
Combined Average Lease Rate	45-126	35-150	35-150	60-123	75-270	60-350	60-350	8-40
14 COUNTY BLUESTEM PASTURE AREA								
With Care	40-160	60-181	40-181	70-123	90-270	90-350	90-350	10-40
Without Care	40-140	35-150	35-150	60-150	73-250	60-270	60-270	8-32
Combined Average Lease Rate	40-160	35-181	35-181	60-150	73-270	60-350	60-350	8-40

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

^{2/}Insufficient reports to publish.

A special Thank You to the 2,200 Kansas Flint Hill's ranchers and cattlemen/women who were selected for the 2013 Bluestem Pasture Survey. Without their help, this publication would not be possible.