

# BLUESTEM PASTURE RELEASE 2015

Released: January 27, 2016

In 2015, the questionnaire previously known as the “Bluestem Pasture Survey” was incorporated into the “2015 Kansas Pasture Survey”. It is important to point out that while the format of the 2013 and 2015 surveys are similar, the survey populations for the two years is different. Due to data limitations, it was not possible to survey the same population. Therefore, direct comparison of the 2013 and 2015 results is not appropriate. The 2013 results are presented solely for the reader’s information. The 2015 results on bluestem pasture utilize the responses from the 2015 Kansas Pasture Survey conducted from July through November of 2015.

In 2015, the condition of Bluestem pasture in the Flint Hills region of Kansas was rated as 0.5 percent very poor, 4.4 percent poor, 16.5 percent adequate, 52.7 percent good, and 25.9 percent excellent. These results indicate that the Bluestem counties received adequate rainfall. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated as mostly adequate across the Bluestem region, with more surplus in the southern and eastern counties.

Responses to the sources of **water** being used for livestock on bluestem pasture were distributed in the following manner: ponds, 55 percent; streams or spring-fed well, 26 percent; electric-powered wells, 6 percent; windmill, 2 percent; hauling, 1 percent; rural water, 5 percent; and other (mainly solar), 4 percent. Kansas stock water supplies were rated as 4 percent very short, 22 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

The percentage of **available pasture contracted** was 99 percent. Of the acres contracted, 57 percent were under full summer season contracts; 32 percent were under partial-season contracts; and 12 percent were leased for the full year. Partial season grazing may include both early intensive grazing and three-quarter season responses.

The mode grazing season **start date** for full summer season contracts was May 1, and the mode ending date is November 1. The mode starting date for partial season or intensive grazing was also May 1, and the mode ending date was August 1. The average number of grazing days for partial summer season contracts for steers and heifers under 700 pounds was 94 days, while the average number of grazing days for all cows was 120 days.

For a **full summer** season contract, the average bluestem pasture lease rate was reported to be \$22.44 per acre where care is provided and \$20.40 per acre where care is not provided. The average combined lease rate was \$21.06 per acre. Price per head for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$83.80 with a guarantee of 4.3 acres. Price per head for all

cow/calf pairs averaged \$148.00 with 7.3 acres guaranteed.

The average price per acre for **partial season** contracts was \$24.83 per acre where care is provided and \$23.38 per acre where care is not provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$94.50, and the price per head without care averaged \$73.33. The average price per head for all cow/calf pairs was \$148.00 with 6.0 acres guaranteed.

The average **full year** lease rate per cow with fall calf was \$190.50 with 7.33 acres guaranteed. The average lease rate for a cow with spring calf in a full year lease was \$196.88 with 7.06 acres guaranteed. Full year lease rates on a per acre basis averaged \$21.21, up from \$19.30 in 2013.

About 47 percent of the respondents reported **burning** their pastures; in 2013, only 6 percent of respondents indicated that they burned their pasture. The mode burning date was April 10 in 2015.

**Services** provided by the landlord or caretaker in **full summer** season leasing arrangements were: burning, 56 percent; fence maintenance, 69 percent; guaranteed count, 39 percent; salt, 47 percent; mineral, 50 percent; water, 56 percent; and other miscellaneous services including weed & tree control, mowing, pasture clearing, etc., 17 percent.

**Services** provided by the landlord or caretaker in **partial summer** season leasing arrangements were similar to those in full summer season contracts: burning, 60 percent; fence maintenance, 70 percent; guaranteed count, 20 percent; salt, 45 percent; mineral, 45 percent; water, 35 percent; and other miscellaneous services including weed control, mowing, pasture clearing, etc., 15 percent.

In the bluestem counties, the majority of the new perimeter or boundary **fences** was 5-wire barb fence with all steel posts. The most common post spacing was 15 feet and typically there were no permanent cross-fences on the pasture. The mode response for the expected life of the fence was 50 years.

The rate charged for building a five-wire **fence**, including materials, averaged \$31.08 per rod. The rate, excluding materials, averaged \$15.91 per rod. Additional charges for gates and corners averaged \$88.33 and \$136.88, respectively. The average hourly rate charged was \$76.67 per hour for fence building with equipment.

**Table 1: Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates per Head, Full Summer Season Contracts**

	Average Lease Price Per Head (Dollars)					
	2015 Bluestem Area		2013 Bluestem Area		2015 State Total	
	Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs	Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs	Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs
With Care	81.67	180.00	99.70	177.60	77.50	170.41
Without Care	<sup>1/</sup>	143.15	78.30	144.60	73.80	138.83
Combined Average Lease Rate	85.00	147.96	87.50	151.20	76.90	147.85

<sup>1/</sup> Insufficient reports to publish.**Table 2: Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates per Head, Partial Summer Season Contracts**

	Average Lease Price Per Head (Dollars)					
	2015 Bluestem Area		2013 Bluestem Area		2015 State Total	
	Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs	Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs	Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs
With Care	94.50	150.00	78.70	<sup>2/</sup>	97.60	122.60
Without Care	73.33	147.00	66.40	<sup>2/</sup>	73.33	106.20
Combined Average Lease Rate	85.43	148.00	73.20	<sup>2/</sup>	88.50	114.40

<sup>2/</sup> Data not available.**Table 3: Average Bluestem Pasture per Acre Lease Rate, 2015 & 2013, Full Summer Season Contracts**

	Average lease price per Acre (\$/Acre)					
	2015 Bluestem Area			2013 Bluestem Area		
	With Care	Without Care	Combined Average Rate	With Care	Without Care	Combined Average Rate
Northern Zone	24.00	20.16	21.20	24.20	19.50	20.70
Central Zone	23.33	21.98	22.34	24.80	21.10	21.80
Southern Zone	20.80	17.83	19.18	21.90	20.10	20.40
14 County Area	22.44	20.40	21.06	23.70	20.40	21.10

**Table 4: Average Bluestem Pasture per Acre Lease Rate, 2015 & 2013, Partial Summer Season Contracts**

	Average lease price per Acre (\$/Acre)					
	2015 Bluestem Area			2013 Bluestem Area		
	With Care	Without Care	Combined Average Rate	With Care	Without Care	Combined Average Rate
Northern Zone	22.94	20.33	21.64	<sup>1/</sup>	24.80	24.90
Central Zone	25.00	25.00	25.00	28.20	23.50	25.90
Southern Zone	26.67	23.83	24.78	24.70	20.60	22.10
14 County Area	24.83	23.38	23.89	26.30	22.00	23.70

<sup>1/</sup> Insufficient reports to publish.

**Table 5: Bluestem Pasture Full Summer Season Lease Rates & Percent Leased, 2006-2009, 2013, 2015<sup>1/</sup>**

Year	Average Lease Price per Head (\$/Head)							Pastures
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs			Leased by
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds and More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average for Pairs	Mid-April (%)
2006	68.2	67.8	67.9	85.4	120.6	118.9	119.4	97
2007	59.2	67.2	64.5	77.4	125.5	125.8	125.7	98
2008	67.6	73.3	71.6	89.6	132.1	133.3	133	97
2009	65.1	70.9	69.1	83.8	127.6	131.1	130.1	96
2013	84.4	88.8	87.5	88.4	149.3	151.9	151.2	97
2015	80.0	87.5	83.8	90.0	148.0	147.9	148.0	99 <sup>2/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup>Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012, and 2014 surveys.

<sup>2/</sup> Percentage of pasture leased by July because the 2015 Survey was conducted from July through November.

**Table 6: Bluestem Pasture Full Summer Season Acreage Guarantees, 2006-2009, 2013, 2015<sup>1/</sup>**

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 and More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average for Pairs
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
2015	4.0	4.6	4.3	5.0	7.3	7.3	7.3

<sup>1/</sup>Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012, and 2014 surveys.

**Table 7: Bluestem Pasture Partial Summer Season Lease Rates & Acreage Guarantees, 2006-2009, 2013, 2015<sup>1/</sup>**

Year	Average Lease Price per Head (\$)		Average Acres Guaranteed per Head	
	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds & More	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds & More
2006	54.4	69.5	2.8	3.5
2007	58.9	70.2	2.9	3.0
2008	61.6	72.1	2.7	3.5
2009	60.6	67.0	2.7	3.6
2013	73.2	88.8	3.1	3.9
2015	85.4	<sup>2/</sup>	2.4	<sup>2/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup>Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012, and 2014 surveys.

<sup>2/</sup>Insufficient reports to publish.

**Table 8: Bluestem Pasture Full Year Pasture Leasing, 2013 & 2015**

	2015 Bluestem Area			2013 Bluestem Area		
	Cows with Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves	Cow/Calf Pairs	Cows with Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves	Cow/Calf Pairs
Average Price per pair (\$/Pair)	190.50	196.86	194.74	179.20	166.50	171.60
Average Acres Guaranteed per Head	7.33	7.06	7.16	9.70	9.30	9.40
Average Price Per Acre (\$/Acre)	21.21			19.30		

**Table 9a: Bluestem Pasture Typical Fence Data, 2015**

Frequency	Builder	Percent (%)	Fence Type	Percent (%)	Post Type	Percent (%)
Most Frequent (Mode)	Owner	44.44	5-Wire Barb	76.06	Steel	74.03
2nd Frequent	Builder/Contractor	38.10	4-Wire-Barb	14.08	Combination Steel & Wood	20.78

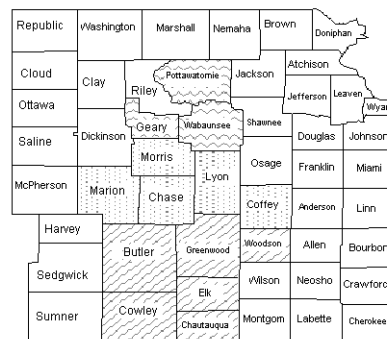
**Table 9b: Bluestem Pasture Typical Fence Data, 2015**

Frequency	Number of Gates				Post Spacing		Size of Pasture with Cross Fences		Number of Cross Fences		Fence Life	
	Steel	(%)	Wire	(%)	(Feet)	(%)	(Acres)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(Years)	(%)
Most Frequent (Mode)	2	36.8	2	44.1	15	31.1	No Pasture	51.5	0	65.0	50	38.6
2nd Frequent	1	31.6	4	26.5	10	28.9	All	30.3	1	20.0	30	29.6

**Table 10: Bluestem Pasture Custom Fence Building Rates, 2015**

Type	Dollars
5 Wire Including Materials (\$/Rod)	31.08
5 Wire Excluding Materials (\$/Rod)	15.91
Additional Charge for Gates (\$)	88.33
Additional Charge for Corners (\$)	136.88
Average Hourly Rate With Equipment (\$/hour)	76.67
Average Hourly Rate for Rough or Rocky Terrain (\$/hour)	55.00

Kansas Bluestem Pasture - 14 County Area



Northern Zone      Central Zone      Southern Zone