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BLUESTEM PASTURE RELEASE 2017



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The 2017 results on bluestem pasture utilize the responses from the 2017 Kansas Bluestem Pasture Survey conducted from March through May of 2017 over the 14 Bluestem counties. It is important to point out that while the format of the 2017 survey is similar to previous surveys, the survey samples are different. The 2015 results are presented solely for the reader's information.

In 2017, the condition of Bluestem pasture in the Flint Hills region of Kansas was rated as 0.7 percent very poor, 3.4 percent poor, 13.1 percent adequate, 44.7 percent good, and 38.1 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 counties.

Responses to the sources of **water** being used for livestock on bluestem pasture were distributed in the following manner: ponds, 47.3 percent; streams or spring-fed or spring development, 28.0 percent; wells, 6.1 percent; electric-powered wells, 4.4 percent; windmill, 5.4 percent; hauling, 0.3 percent; rural water, 2.7 percent; solar powered, 4.7 percent; and other (mainly water tank), 1 percent. Kansas stock water supplies on May 22 were rated as 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 25 percent surplus.

Ninety-two percent of **available pasture** was **contracted** in the 2016-2017 season. Of the acres contracted, 34 percent were under full summer season contracts; 47 percent were under partial-season contracts; and 19 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 98 days, while the average number of grazing days for all cows was 113 days.

The terms "with care" and "without care" have a wide range of meaning across the 14 Bluestem counties. Therefore, we have included the following table with response ranges shown in it. The wide range of prices represents the fact that care levels and lease terms vary widely. Low-end prices likely include minimal care levels for both the livestock and pasture land. Higher prices represent higher care levels with guarantees in the lease terms. Some examples of terms that might be covered in "care" provisions include: burning, fencing, count, mineral, riding cattle, doctoring cattle, contracting cattle for the pasture, shipping costs and set up, grass management, and liability insurance.

Range of Responses for Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates per Head (\$/Head), 2017

	Average Lease Price per Head (\$/Head)					
	Full Summer Season			Partial Summer Season		
	Steers and Heifers Under 700 Pounds (\$/Head)	Cow/Calf Pairs (\$/Head)	Average Lease Price per Acre (\$/Acre)	Steers and Heifers Under 700 Pounds (\$/Head)	Cow/Calf Pairs (\$/Head)	Average Lease Price per Acre (\$/Acre)
With Care	80-140	125-285	15-70	75-100	175-280	15-45
Without Care	44-100	100-255	12-42.5	30-79	90-225	15-40
Combined Average Lease Rate	44-140	100-285	12-70	30-100	90-280	15-45

For a **full summer** season contract, the average bluestem pasture lease rate was reported to be \$42.59 per acre where care is provided and \$23.01 per acre where care is not provided. The average combined lease rate was \$27.54 per acre. Price per head for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$90.24 with a guarantee of 4.1 acres. Price per head for all cow/calf pairs averaged \$177.99 with 7.2 acres guaranteed.

The average price per acre for **partial season** contracts was \$35.43 per acre where care is provided and \$24.37 per acre where care is not provided. Price per head with care for steers and heifers under 700 pounds averaged \$85.44, and the price per head without care averaged \$61.74. The acres guaranteed per head for steers and heifers under 700 pounds average 2.4 acres. The average price per head for all cow/calf pairs was \$173.86 with 5.5 acres guaranteed.

The average **full year** lease rate per cow with a fall calf was \$198.33 with 8.56 acres guaranteed. The average lease rate for a cow with spring calf in a full year lease was \$198.49 with 8.55 acres guaranteed. Full year lease rates on a per acre basis averaged \$22.34, up from \$21.21 in 2015.

Contracts based on **price per pound of gain** averaged 45 cents per pound of gain. For **winter cow grazing arrangements**, the average reported price is \$13.52 per head per month with 8.6 acres guaranteed. The cattle typically grazed on bluestem grass and cover crops.

When pasture **stocking rate** is involved in a bluestem lease, for a partial summer season lease the average beginning weight and ending weight for backgrounding-stocker-feeder operations are 581 pounds and 831 pounds, respectively, with 2.56 acres per animal on average. For cow-calf operations, for a full summer lease the average mature weight of cows is 1329 pounds and the average number of acres per cow-calf pair is 9.79.

About 88 percent of the respondents reported **burning** their pastures in 2017. The mode burning date was April 10 in 2017.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in **full summer** season leasing arrangements were: burning, 69 percent; fence maintenance, 83 percent; guaranteed count, 21 percent; salt, 33 percent; mineral, 29 percent; and other miscellaneous services including weed & tree control, 22 percent.

Services provided by the landlord or caretaker in **partial summer** season leasing arrangements were: burning, 65 percent; fence maintenance, 92 percent; guaranteed count, 35 percent; salt, 48 percent; mineral, 50 percent; and other miscellaneous services including weed control and vet care, 29 percent.

The rate charged for building a five-wire all steel post **fence**, including materials, averaged \$27.68 per rod. The rate, excluding materials, averaged \$20.08 per rod. The average hourly rate charged was \$66.67 per hour for fence building with equipment and \$45.00 without equipment. Additional charges for gates and corners averaged \$100.25 and \$166.67, respectively. The additional charge for building in rough or rocky terrain was \$62.50 per hour.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates per Head (\$/Head), Full Summer Season Contracts

	Average Lease Price per Head (\$/Head)			
	2017		2015	
	Steers and Heifers Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs	Steers and Heifers Under 700 Pounds	Cow/Calf Pairs
With Care	131.67	190.92	81.67	180.00
Without Care	61.00	169.47	^{1/}	143.15
Combined Average Lease Rate	90.24	177.99	85.00	147.96

^{1/} Insufficient reports to publish.

Average Bluestem Pasture Lease Rates per Head (\$/Head), Partial Summer Season Contracts

	Average Lease Price per Head (\$/Head)					
	2017			2015		
	Steers and Heifers Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds and More	Cow/Calf Pairs	Steers and Heifers Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds and More	Cow/Calf Pairs
With Care	85.44	104.67	178.89	94.50	^{1/}	150.00
Without Care	61.74	70.50	170.71	73.33	^{1/}	147.00
Combined Average Lease Rate	71.90	91.00	173.86	85.43	^{1/}	148.00

^{1/} Insufficient reports to publish.

Average Bluestem Pasture Per Acre Lease Rate, Full Summer Season Contract

	Average Lease Price per Acre (\$/Acre)					
	2017			2015		
	With Care	Without Care	Combined	With Care	Without Care	Combined
Northern Zone	53.13	23.91	29.76	24.00	20.16	21.20
Central Zone	40.65	24.38	28.55	23.33	21.98	22.34
Southern Zone	39.75	21.07	25.22	20.80	17.83	19.18
14 Country Area	42.59	23.01	27.54	22.44	20.40	21.06

Average Bluestem Pasture Per Acre Lease Rate, Partial Summer Season Contract

	Average Lease Price per Acre (\$/Acre)					
	2017			2015		
	With Care	Without Care	Combined	With Care	Without Care	Combined
Northern Zone	36.10	26.50	30.61	22.94	20.33	21.64
Central Zone	37.68	25.15	30.60	25.00	25.00	25.00
Southern Zone	31.00	22.77	24.92	26.67	23.83	24.78
14 Country Area	35.43	24.37	28.43	24.83	23.38	23.89

Bluestem Pasture Full Summer Season Lease Rates (\$/Head), 2006-2009, 2013, 2015, 2017 ^{1/}

Years	Average Lease Price per Head (\$/Head)						
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs		
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds & More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average for pairs
2006	68.2	67.8	67.9	85.4	120.6	118.9	119.4
2007	59.2	67.2	64.5	77.4	125.5	125.8	125.7
2008	67.6	73.3	71.6	89.6	132.1	133.3	133
2009	65.1	70.9	69.1	83.8	127.6	131.1	130.1
2013	84.4	88.8	87.5	88.4	149.3	151.9	151.2
2015	80.0	87.5	83.8	90.0	148.0	147.9	148.0
2017	^{2/}	89.9	90.2	102.5	180.2	177.5	178.0

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012, and 2014 surveys.

^{2/} Insufficient reports to publish.

Bluestem Pasture Full Summer Season Lease Acreage Guarantees, 2006-2009, 2013, 2015, 2017 ^{1/}

Years	Average Acres of Grass Guaranteed per Head (Acres/Head)						
	Steers and Heifers				Cow/Calf Pairs		
	Under 500 Pounds	500-699 Pounds	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds & More	With Fall Calves	With Spring Calves	Average for pairs
2006	4	4.2	4.2	5.3	8	7.9	7.9
2007	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.4	8	8	8
2008	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.8	8	7.6	7.7
2009	4.3	3.9	4	5.2	8.3	7.4	7.6
2013	3.8	4	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
2017	^{2/}	4.1	4.1	4.3	8.4	6.9	7.2

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012, and 2014 surveys.

^{2/} Insufficient reports to publish.

Bluestem Pasture Partial Summer Season Lease Rates & Acreage Guarantees, 2006-2009, 2013, 2015, 2017 ^{1/}

Year	Average Lease Price per Head (\$)		Average Acres Guaranteed per Head	
	Steers and Heifers		Steers and Heifers	
	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	^{2/}	2.4	6.0
2017	71.9	91.0	2.4	3.0

^{1/}Funding was not available for the 2010 - 2012, and 2014 surveys.

^{2/} Insufficient reports to publish.

Average Bluestem Pasture Full Year Leasing Information^{1/}

	2017			2015		
	Cows with Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves	All Cow/Calf Pairs	Cows with Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves	All Cow/Calf Pairs
Average Price per pair (\$/Pair)	198.33	198.49	198.46	190.50	196.86	194.74
Average Acres Guaranteed per Head	8.56	8.55	8.55	7.33	7.06	7.16
Average Price Per Acre (\$/Acre)	22.34			21.21		

^{1/}Note: These are combined rates; there is no separation of “with care” and “without care” rates.

Range of Responses for Bluestem Pasture Full Year Leasing, 2017^{1/}

	Cows with Fall Calves	Cows with Spring Calves	All Cow/Calf Pairs
Average Price per pair (\$/Pair)	140-305	48-415	48-415
Average Acres Guaranteed per Head	7-10	5.9-10	5.9-10
Average Price Per Acre (\$/Acre)	10-45		

^{1/}Note: These are combined rates; there is no separation of “with care” and “without care” rates.

Custom Fence Building Rates, 2017

Fence Type	Steel Post Only	Steel & Wood Posts	Combined Rate
5-Wire, Including Materials (\$/Rod)	27.68	34.14	31.01
5-Wire, Excluding Materials (\$/Rod)	20.08	^{1/}	20.08

Gate Type	Steel Gates	Wire Gates	Combined Rate
Additional Charge for Gates (\$/Gate)	126.07	40.00	100.25

Additional Charge for Corners (\$)	166.67
Additional Charge for Rough or Rocky Terrain (\$/hour)	62.50
Average Hourly Rate With Equipment (\$/hour)	66.67
Average Hourly Rate Without Equipment (\$/hour)	45.00

^{1/} Insufficient reports to publish.

