

COW-CALF

2018 SURVEY SUMMARY - BREEDING & CALVING SEASON

Hannah E. Shear, K-State Department of Agricultural Economics



**SURVEY
RESPONDENTS**



RESPONDANTS BY REGION



WEST - 154
CENTRAL - 118
EAST - 181

**AVERAGE HERD SIZE
BY REGION**

INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Kansas Farm Management Association collected survey data from cow-calf producers across the state. The results of this survey can be found on AgManager.info in a report titled "A Snapshot of Kansas Cow-Calf Producers: An Analysis of 2018 Kansas Farm Management Association Cow-Calf Enterprises". Supplemental factsheets covering topics such as breeding program and calving season, preconditioning practices, and feeding are also available to provide quick summaries of important factors impacting cow-calf producer profitability.

The survey was completed and returned by 304 cow-calf producers. It is important to note that these responses are from KFMA members only, and therefore these results may not necessarily be reflective of cow-calf producers in general.

The following summary of the additional survey data is provided on a regional basis, with KFMA Associations 4 (NE) and 6 (SE) classified as the East, Association 1 (NC) and 2 (SC) classified as Central, and Associations 3 (SW) and 5 (NW) classified as West.

BREEDING PROGRAM

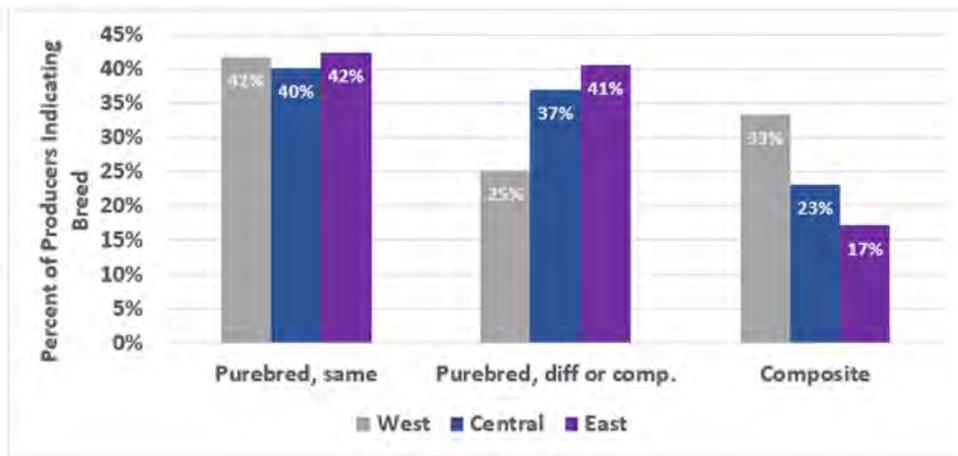
In selecting bulls, all regions had similar results in ranking selection criteria. Respondents were asked to rank price, Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), and visual appraisal in order of importance in their bull selection process. Utilizing EPDs was the top criteria for all regions followed by visual appraisal, with price ranked last. The eastern region placed a larger emphasis on visual appraisal compared to the other regions.

BULL SELECTION CRITERIA RANKINGS



The KFMA additional survey also asked for producers to select what type of bull they used in their breeding program. Respondents were able to select more than one answer from the following choices: purebred of the same breed as the cows, a purebred bull of a different breed from the cows, or bull is a composite breed. For ease of analysis, producers who selected more than one option or none at all were excluded from the following summary information.

BULL BREED SELECTION BY REGION



CALVING SEASON

The survey also asked producers to indicate in which months they calve. The responses follow a common fall and spring calving pattern, but slight differences between these “windows” of calving emerge between regions. This survey question will be modified moving forward to provide more information regarding calving season timing and length. For example, a producer may have marked they calve in every month. This could be due to allowing a bull full access to the herd or it could be due to several breeding programs occurring at once. The results reported are based on responses given, but may not be accurate due to question clarity.

The eastern region had a more even split between producers indicating fall and spring calving, while both the central region and western region favored calving in the spring months. The eastern region producers tended to indicate more calving in February-March while the central and western region tended to shift their calving towards March-April. More detailed questions about calving and breeding programs will help KFMA provide economic analysis of calving season implications as well as provide more information as to the level of management that is taking place in regard to breeding programs.

CALVING MONTHS BY REGION

