

BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) AND OSAGE PASTURE REPORT -- JUNE 1, 1966
KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

June 9, 1966

The condition of grazing feed June 1 on the Bluestem pastures of Kansas and the Osage pastures of Oklahoma was well below last year and below average, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

Growth of grass was retarded by the cool weather that extended into late spring and the late frosts. In addition, precipitation was below normal from January through May. Soil moisture supplies are limited and summer grazing will depend largely on subsequent rainfall. Stockwater ponds have good supplies of water but are not full.

Movement of cattle into the Bluestem-Osage area totaled 197,000 head during January through May, 4 percent more than a year earlier. The January 1, 1966 inventory of cattle and calves in the area was 1,163,000 head, up 2 percent from January 1, 1965 and the highest of record.

Cattle went on pastures in generally good condition. However, gains have been slow because of limited supplies of grazing feed caused by the cool, dry weather.

The peak of fall cattle shipments from the Bluestem-Osage area is expected to be slightly later than last year and later than other recent years.

KANSAS BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) PASTURES: Pasture feed prospects were fair in the Bluestem area of Kansas on June 1. Pastures were slow in starting this spring as temperatures and precipitation were generally below normal from January through May. On June 1, pastures generally were beginning to respond to the warmer temperatures and available moisture. Stockwater supplies are generally adequate with only scattered areas reporting ponds low or water supplies deficient. Condition of pasture feed on June 1 was reported as 78 percent, 12 points under the very good June 1, 1965 condition and 4 points below the 1960-64 average.

Inshipments of cattle and calves into the 14 county Bluestem area of Kansas during the first five months of 1966 are estimated at 152,000 head. This is 3 percent more than the 148,000 shipped in during the corresponding period in 1965. On January 1, 1966, there were 1,028,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand in the 14 county area, 4 percent more than a year earlier.

The June 1 condition of cattle was good but was the lowest since 1956. Cattle were in good flesh as they moved onto pastures but gains since then have been small because grass growth was slow. Stockmen report an average expected fall shipping date of September 10, the latest since 1961.

Bluestem pastures were 98 percent filled by June 1, compared with 97 percent a year earlier and 95 percent average.

OKLAHOMA OSAGE PASTURES: Grazing feed on Osage pastures in Oklahoma was fair to good on June 1. Cool weather continued about three weeks longer than last year and growth of grass was slow. Rainfall was below normal during May and was less than desirable throughout the spring. Stockwater ponds are at good levels but not full. Pasture feed condition for June 1 was 80 percent, 12 points below the very good condition a year earlier and 3 points below average for June 1.

January-May shipments of cattle and calves into the Osage pasture area are estimated at 45,000 head, 3,000 above the number a year earlier. There were 135,000 head on hand January 1, 1966 in the area, 11 percent less than on January 1, 1965.

Native cattle came through the winter in good condition because grazing was fair and supplemental feed plentiful. Cattle have maintained their condition since moving onto pastures and most are making fair gains. The reported June 1 condition of cattle was 84, down 5 points from a year earlier and 2 points below average. Cattle shipments are expected to peak around September 3, slightly later than last year and the latest expected in many years.

About 91 percent of the available Osage pastures were filled on June 1 compared with 98 percent filled a year earlier and 94 percent average on June 1.

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CATTLE AND PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS AND PERCENT OF PASTURES FILLED

(Equivalent of reported conditions: 49 or below is very bad; 50-59 bad; 60-69 poor; 70-79 fair; 80-89 good; 90-99 very good; 100 and over is excellent)

Area	Condition June 1						Percent of available pasture filled June 1		
	Pasture feed			Cattle			1960-64 av.	1965	1966
	1960-64 av.	1965	1966	1960-64 av.	1965	1966			
						Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	
Kansas, Bluestem ..	82	90	78	85	88	83	95	97	98
Oklahoma, Osage	83	92	80	86	89	84	94	98	91

CATTLE AND CALVES: JANUARY 1 INVENTORY AND INSHIPMENTS

Area	January 1 Inventory			Inshipments January-May		
	1960-64 av.	1965	1966	1960-64 av.	1965	1966
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Kansas, Bluestem ..	889	992	1,028	227	148	152
Oklahoma, Osage	134	152	135	44	42	45
Total both areas	1,022	1,144	1,163	271	190	197

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