

BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) AND OSAGE PASTURE REPORT -- JUNE 1, 1967
KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

June 12, 1967

The condition of grazing feed on June 1 was below both last year and average in the Bluestem pasture area of Kansas, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Condition was above last year but same as average in the Osage pasture area of Oklahoma.

Growth of grass this season has been slowed by cool temperatures extending past mid-May. Precipitation has alleviated the shortages of topsoil moisture that prevailed in the region during the fall and winter. Runoff, however, has been light and stockwater ponds are still low in some areas. Subsoil moisture remains short and summer grazing will depend on additional rainfall.

Movement of cattle into the Bluestem-Osage area totaled 173,000 head, down 16 percent from last year and 34 percent below average. The Jan. 1, 1967 inventory of cattle and calves in the area was 1,237,000 head, down 1 percent from last year but 14 percent above average.

Cattle on pasture are generally in good condition. Gains have been limited by the slow development of grazing feed.

The peak of cattle shipments from the Bluestem-Osage area is expected to be slightly later than in 1966 and other recent years.

KANSAS BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) PASTURES: Pasture feed was only fair in the Bluestem area of Kansas on June 1. Pastures have been slow in developing as rainfall was light from January to late May. Cool temperatures in early May retarded growth but grazing prospects were improving rapidly at the close of the month. Ponds are low and creeks are not running in some localities where runoff was light. Condition of pasture feed, at 70 for June 1, was 8 points below a year earlier and 13 points below average.

Inshipments of cattle and calves into the Bluestem area of Kansas during the first 5 months of 1967 are estimated at 145,000 head. This is down 9 percent from last year and is 33 percent below average. The January 1, 1967 number of cattle and calves in the area was 1,086,000 head, about 2 percent below a year earlier, but 15 percent above average. Some cow herds are being kept in the area on a year around basis.

The condition of cattle and calves on June 1 was generally good but at 81 was below any previous year. Many cattle were brought in relatively early. Some were in thin condition, and gains have been limited by slow grass development. Stockmen report an average expected fall shipping date of September 7, this would be 3 days earlier than last year and the earliest since 1964.

Bluestem pastures were 97 percent filled by June 1, compared with 98 percent in 1966 and the average of 96.

OKLAHOMA OSAGE PASTURES: Fair to good grazing feed was being provided by Osage pastures on June 1. Growth was slowed by unseasonably cool temperatures in early May but quality of grass is good. Topsoil moisture is adequate in most areas but rains since April 1 have not built up subsoil moisture supplies.

Pasture feed condition for June 1, at 84, is 4 points above a year ago and same as average.

January-May shipments of cattle and calves into the Osage pasture area are estimated at 28,000 head. This is 38 percent under last year and the average. There were 151,000 cattle on hand January 1, 1967 in the area compared with 145,000 head a year earlier.

Native cattle have been maintained in good condition with supplemental feeding where grazing was short. Culling of older animals was rather close during the fall and winter in line with existing supplies of grazing feed. Cattle are making fair gains, with death losses minimal and new calves are strong and healthy. Stockmen report peak marketings are expected around September 8. This is later than both last year and average.

About 98 percent of the available pastures were filled June 1 compared with 91 percent a year earlier. Average percentage is 95 for June 1.

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 feed			Cattle			pasture filled June 1		
	1961-65 av.	1966	1967	1961-65 av.	1966	1967	1961-65 av.	1966	1967
							Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Kansas, Bluestem	83	78	70	86	83	81	96	98	97
Oklahoma, Osage	84	80	84	86	84	86	95	91	98

CATTLE AND CALVES: JANUARY 1 INVENTORY AND INSHIPMENTS

Area	January 1 Inventory			Inshipments January-May		
	1961-65 av.	1966	1967	1961-65 av.	1966	1967
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Kansas, Bluestem	945	1,106	1,086	217	160	145
Oklahoma, Osage	139	145	151	45	45	28
Total both areas	1,084	1,251	1,237	262	205	173

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