

BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) AND OSAGE PASTURE REPORT -- JUNE 1, 1965
KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

June 11, 1965

Supplies of grazing feed June 1 on the Bluestem pastures of Kansas and Osage pastures of Oklahoma were the best in several years, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

Development of grass was delayed early in the spring by cool temperatures but as temperatures warmed growth has been rapid. Moisture supplies have been generally good this season in the Bluestem-Osage areas. Precipitation during May ranged to over 5 inches in some sections, and additional rain received after June 1 should further improve moisture conditions. Adequate to abundant summer grazing is expected. Quality of grass is reported to be good.

Movement of cattle and calves into the Bluestem-Osage pasture area the first 5 months this year was estimated at 199,000 head, 6 percent less than a year earlier. The January 1, 1965 inventory of cattle and calves in the Bluestem-Osage area totaled 1,155,000 head, up 3 percent from January 1, 1964, and the highest of record.

Cattle on Bluestem-Osage pastures are making very good gains on the generally ample, good quality grass. Arrivals off wheat pastures were in generally good flesh but some other cattle moved in were on the thin side.

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

KANSAS BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) PASTURES. Pasture feed prospects in the Flint Hills area of Kansas are very good--the best for June 1 since 1959. Grass got off to a slow start early this spring due to cool weather, but has made rapid growth as temperatures warmed. Current moisture supplies (both surface and sub-soil) are very good. Rainfall during May ranged from one and one-half to over five inches over much of the Bluestem pasture area, offsetting a short dry spell earlier in the season. Additional rainfall has been received since June 1. Feed supplies should be adequate to abundant for summer grazing. The June 1 Bluestem pasture feed condition was 90, up 11 points from a year earlier and 5 points above the 1959-63 average.

An estimated 157,000 head of cattle and calves were shipped into the 14 county Bluestem pasture area of Kansas during the first 5 months of 1965. This is 7 percent less than the 169,000 head received in this area during the January through May period in 1964. On January 1, 1965 there were 1,003,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand in this 14 county area, up 3 percent from the January 1, 1964 inventory.

The June 1 condition of cattle in the Bluestem pasture area was the best since 1959. Stock have made favorable gains on the good grazing feed. Wheat pasture cattle were generally received in good flesh but some other animals brought in were thin. Stockmen report an average expected fall shipping date of September 9 -- the latest date since 1961.

Bluestem pastures were 97 percent filled by June 1, the same as a year earlier and 3 points above the 5-year average.

OKLAHOMA OSAGE PASTURES. Development of grazing feed on Osage pastures by June 1 was the best since 1954. Prospects are very good for summer grazing. Moisture supplies are ample although seasonal rains will be needed to maintain grass through the summer. Quality of grass is good--not the "soft, washy" type which often results from rapid growth. Stockwater is ample.

Shipments of cattle and calves into the Osage pasture area January-May were estimated at 42,000 head, only slightly below the number for this period last year. On January 1, 1965 there were 152,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand in this area, up 4 percent from January 1, 1964.

Cattle and calves have made very good gains on the ample forage and by June 1 were in the best condition for this date since 1958. In some areas the animals shipped in were generally heavier than a year earlier. The June 1 condition of cattle was 89, up 3 points from both a year earlier and the 5-year average. The peak in cattle shipments from the Osage areas is expected to be around September 2--the latest in a number of years.

Osage pastures were 98 percent filled on June 1 this year compared with 94 percent filled a year earlier and the 5-year average for June 1 of 93 percent.

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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					
	1959-63 av.	1964	1965	1959-63 av.	1964	1965	1959-63 av.	1964	1965
							Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Kansas, Bluestem	85	79	90	86	84	88	94	97	97
Oklahoma, Osage	85	84	92	86	86	89	93	94	98

CATTLE AND CALVES: JANUARY 1 INVENTORY AND INSHIPMENTS

Area	January 1 inventory			Inshipments January-May		
	1959-63 av.	1964	1965	1959-63 av.	1964	1965
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Kansas, Bluestem	870	971	1,003	233	169	157
Oklahoma, Osage	129	146	152	41	43	42
Total both areas	999	1,117	1,155	274	212	199

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