

wheat pasture



December 1971

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In mid-December, nearly 70 percent of the fall seeded wheat in the three state region of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas had sufficient forage to support grazing, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is the highest percentage since 1965 and well above the 26 percent a year ago. With the exception of several counties in north central Kansas, most areas of the 3-state region had good top growth of wheat. Excellent forage conditions continued in the northern plains of Texas.

The percent of seeded wheat actually being pastured in the 3-state area approached 40 percent, also the highest percentage since 1965 and double the 20 percent being pastured a year earlier. Carrying capacity is very high in Oklahoma and many fields could carry additional stock. Moisture supplies are generally adequate to surplus throughout the region.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Nearly 60 percent of the 1972 seeded wheat acreage in the western two-thirds of Kansas had sufficient growth to provide pasture by mid-December. This was highest for the data since 1965 and compares with 14 percent last year. About one-fifth of the seeded wheat was actually being pastured. This was up 11 points from December 1970 but not as high as in 1965 or 1968. However, many sloping and sandy fields have been pastured continuously since stands were established. Wheat growth in south central counties was reported to be the best ever. In several north central counties, top growth was insufficient for grazing. The district average percentages of seeded wheat being pastured ranged from a high of 29 percent in the south central district to a low of 6 percent in north central district.

The following modifications announced in October 1971 will be made in the Wheat Pasture and Bluestem-Osage Pasture Reports in 1972.

1. Data in the Wheat Pasture Report will relate to the first of the month and will be issued as a part of the Monthly Crop Production Reports for October, November and December.
2. The June Bluestem-Osage Pasture Report issued for Kansas and Oklahoma will be discontinued.

Forage available on wheat pasture was reported fair to good. The reported rating was well above December last year. The acreage required to carry a 400 pound calf through the fall and winter averaged about 5 acres compared with 9 acres on December 15 a year ago.

OKLAHOMA (WESTERN): Wheat fields in western Oklahoma continue to provide good grazing. At mid-December over 80 percent of the seeded acreage had sufficient growth to support livestock, and nearly two-thirds of the wheat acreage was being pastured. Supply of forage is good in all areas, and with favorable weather, is expected to provide good grazing throughout the winter months. Grazing in the Panhandle counties is much above average for this early in the season. Moisture supplies have been plentiful to excessive. On December 2 an unseasonal snowfall in western Oklahoma, with amounts ranging from 2 to 12 inches, curtailed grazing for several days, and rains have kept some fields too muddy for livestock. Sunshine returned the week of the 15th and fields are becoming more firm.

Cattle continue to move into the wheat districts but most fields are not stocked to the full capacity of present growth. There has been some death loss caused by wheat poisoning and bloat.

TEXAS (NORTHERN PLAINS AND SOUTHERN LOW PLAINS): Texas wheat pastures in the High Plains and Rolling Plains areas of the State are furnishing very good grazing as of December 15, 1971. Prospects for future grazing are also good as moisture is adequate in most fields. On December 15, 79 percent of the fall seeded wheat acreage had sufficient growth for grazing compared with 64 percent a month earlier and 36 percent a year ago. Approximately 57 percent of the wheat acreage was actually being grazed. About 3 acres of wheat pasture are required to carry a 400 pound calf. This compares with 8 acres on the same date a year ago.

Available Wheat Pasture
December 15, 1970 and 1971

State	Percent of seeded wheat with sufficient growth to pasture		Percent of seeded wheat being pastured		Acres of wheat pasture required to carry a 400 pound calf	
	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971
	Percent				Acres	
Western Kansas	14	58	9.0	20.0	9	5
Western Oklahoma	43	85	34.0	65.0	6	3
Texas Panhandle	36	79	30.5	57.0	8	3
Average for wheat pasture region	26.4	69.5	20.2	39.5	8.0	4.1

WINTER WHEAT - TOP GROWTH AVAILABLE FOR GRAZING*

December 15, 1971



