

BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) AND OSAGE PASTURE REPORT -- JUNE 1, 1970  
KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

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The June 1 condition of grazing feed on the Bluestem pastures of Kansas and Osage pastures of Oklahoma is below last year's unusually good condition, but above average, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Rainfall has been adequate in most of the area and prospects for summer grazing are good.

Movement of cattle into the Bluestem-Osage area during January through May was well above a year earlier. The January 1, 1970 inventory of cattle and calves in the area was up moderately from January 1, 1969. Most cattle being placed in pastures were carrying more flesh than last year and were making good gains.

KANSAS BLUESTEM (FLINT HILLS) PASTURES: Pasture feed was in mostly good condition in the Bluestem area of Kansas on June 1. Rainfall during the spring has been adequate in all but southern areas. Stream flow and stock water supplies were above normal in most localities. Cattle were reported doing well and summer grazing prospects are excellent. Condition of pasture feed on June 1 was 88 percent, 5 points below last year but 5 points above average.

Inshipments of cattle and calves into the Bluestem area of Kansas during the first 5 months of 1970 totaled 200,000 head, compared with 185,000 a year earlier. There were 1,192,000 head of cattle and calves in the area on January 1, 1970, up 60,000 from a year earlier.

On June 1, the condition of cattle and calves was 88 percent, the same as last year but 2 points above average. Cattle moved into the Bluestem area later than in 1969. Most cattle were carrying more flesh upon arrival than last year and were doing well. The expected peak marketing date was September 15, about 4 days later than last year.

Pastures were 92 percent filled on June 1, down 1 point from a year earlier, 4 points below average, and the lowest percentage filled since 1960.

OKLAHOMA OSAGE PASTURES: Grazing conditions in the Osage pasture country are very good although grass got off to a slow start. Spring growth was later than normal because of below-normal temperatures in April. Good rains in April filled ponds, and light to fair rains during May maintained grasses. Pasture feed condition on June 1 at 90 percent was down 3 points from a year earlier. Late May and early June rains have made summer grazing prospects very good.

Cattle condition was about the same as a year ago. The good quality of the grass is showing up in good gains. Peak marketings are expected around September 5.

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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					
	1959-68 av.	1969	1970	1959-68 av.	1969	1970	1959-68 av.	1969	1970
	- - - Pct. - - -								
Kansas, Bluestem .....	83	93	88	86	88	88	96	93	92
Oklahoma, Osage .....	85	93	90	86	89	88	94	95	93

CATTLE AND CALVES: JANUARY 1 INVENTORY AND INSHIPMENTS

Area	January 1 Inventory			Inshipments January-May		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
	- - - - - 1,000 head - - - - -					
Kansas, Bluestem .....	1,095	1,132	1,192	158	185	200
Oklahoma, Osage .....	141	144	1/	32	32	1/
Total both areas .....	1,236	1,276	1/	190	217	1/

1/ Not available.