

Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates, Part 1

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The updated Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates survey results have been released! This survey is done every other year and while the format of the report is evolving, the information that we all want is in there. The report can be found online at agmanager.info and I have copies printed out at the Extension Office that you can stop by and pick up or call and we'll put it in the mail to you. Rental rates are down from 2017 which should be no surprise to anyone. Average rental rate per acre, full season, is just under \$24 with no service and the reported range was \$15 to \$35/acre. Full season cow/calf per head was \$180 with a range of \$130 to \$240. This came down more than I really expected it would. The report also has short season rates, 3/4 season rates as well as winter grazing. It also has rates for with and without care. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates, Part 2

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Following up on the Bluestem Pasture Report from yesterday I also wanted to talk about all the other information that's in there. It has yearling rates as well as cow/calf rates. It has the rates in dollars per acre and dollars per head or pair. It gives you the average and the range when there was enough responses to give a good report. Of interest to many people is that there are also rates for fence building. This is a big ticket item if you have to install a lot of new fence and people are always asking how much it will cost. For all of those of you not involved in agriculture who have heard about all the miles of fences lost in some of those big fires in southwest Kansas, here is why it is such a big deal. Average charged rate for custom fence building, including labor and materials, is \$12,500 per mile. It's a big deal! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Mosquito Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Recently the KS Dept of Health and Environment issued a notice that the entire state was under a moderate risk of West Nile Virus. This was no surprise given all the rain we've had this year. Mosquito trapping is going on around the state and numbers and types of mosquitoes are on the rise. And yes, we have more than one kind of mosquito. What's of moderate concern is that we are seeing a lot of the mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus early in the season. As you're out for whatever reason remember the 3 D's. First of all drain standing water so mosquitoes can't breed. Secondly dress appropriately. Long sleeves and long pants in light colors will result in fewer bites. Lastly use DEET, or other repellents. Many people never react to the West Nile Virus. But for a very few, it can be fatal. Take precautions! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Eastern Gamagrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Twice last week I had pasture managers asking me how to control Eastern Gamagrass. Gamagrass is a native early warm season grass that grows in very coarse clumps. It produces a lot of forage and is actually a highly nutritive grass. Most pastures don't have much in it because cattle tend to grub it out. In the past 15 years I have seen more and more of it and it is a challenge in hay meadows because the clumps can be big and tough and hard to drive over. Unfortunately it can not be selectively removed from grass stands. All you can do is to spot treat it with glyphosate which may result in a little collateral damage to the desired grasses. For larger clumps this shouldn't be tough but for smaller younger plants it may mean a cup of glyphosate and a small paint brush or Q-tip to carefully put it right on a leaf or two. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Tissue Testing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you drive by very many corn fields you will soon see a hodge podge of shades of green. Some of this is due to stunted root development and others to loss of nitrogen. Unfortunately it's hard to soil test and know how much nitrogen you've lost. Tissue testing is much more accurate way to determine nutrient levels or needs of growing crops. For corn less than 12 inches tall you'd bring in all the plant. For corn over 12 inches and until reproductive growth begins, collect the top fully developed leaves meaning those that show leaf collars. If you're into reproductive growth then you only collect ear leaves which is that leaf below the uppermost developing ear. Put these in a paper bag not plastic and get to the Extension Office. We'll get them over to the KSU soils lab for analysis and provide interpretation and recommendations. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.