

Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates, Part 1

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The biennial Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates publication hit my inbox earlier this month. This report alternates with the Custom Rates report. Custom rates in even numbered years, pasture rental rates in odd numbered years. Remember that this report, like the custom rates report, is only as good as the information that people submit. The more people that respond with accurate reports the better it is. If you don't like the information, then make sure that you, and your neighbors, are taking the time to fill out those surveys. The rates are reported as dollars per acre as well as dollars per head or dollars per cow calf pair along with some information about various forms of service supplied by landlords and even some info on fence building costs. Copies of this report are online and in the office and I'll report rates the next couple of days. 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. When we talk about pasture rental rates we are generally talking about either cows with a spring calf or yearlings or stockers. Stockers today, cow/calves tomorrow. Some people like to rent by the head and others by the acre - personally, renting by the head gives the land owner more flexibility to dictate stocking rates without an inequitable impact on the cost to the producer. For stockers starting the season at 600 pounds average per acre rate for full season was about \$120 per head with an average of 5.4 acres of grass per animal. That's available grass not just 5.4 acres of pasture. On a per acre basis for full season the average was \$28.44 per acre. If someone is early intensive stocking or double stocking, it comes out to \$85 on a per head basis with 3 acres per animal or \$30.47 per acre on an acre basis. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates, Part 3

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Today, pasture rental rates of a cow and calf. These are 1250 pound cows with a spring calf. Larger cows or cows with fall calves would need to be figured somewhat differently and stocking rates also increased proportionally. All of these rates will be without care - as a landlord if you provide differing levels of care contact me for recommendations on appropriate rental rates. On a per pair basis throughout the Flint Hills region it was \$193 give or take. By the way, the range was 120 to \$350 per pair. Average acres worked out to 7.9 acres per pair which is finally getting up to about the level I feel it should be! On a per acre basis the reported average is just a tad over \$27 per acre. Both of these rates are right in the ballpark that I've been recommending the past couple of years and give you good starting points for talking! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Custom Fence Building Costs

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Something that K-State started to do a few years ago was to include reports of fence building costs in with the bluestem pasture rental rates report, which honestly makes really good sense to me! All rates are for what I would call a standard five wire fence. A mile of fence, including materials and steel posts only was \$12,800. With steel and wood posts it was just under \$12,000. For labor only, land owner providing the materials, the cost was \$5,650 to \$5,800 per mile. On a per rod basis, and a rod is 16½ feet in case you don't know that, it was \$37 to \$40 with materials and without materials it was roughly \$18 per rod. Additional charges for gates, landowner providing the gate, was \$172 for a steel gate and \$60 for a wire gate. There was also additional charges of \$220 per corner, and \$82/hr extra charge on rough or rocky terrain. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Pre Harvest Weed Control in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When the weather decided to go into instant summer mode with temperatures in the upper 80s and 90s the wheat started turning really fast. Naturally, once it hit 90 the wheat quit trying to mature normally and just started to die so that'll take a little off the top end of the yield. But with all the rain previously you may suddenly find a nice crop of weeds coming up in some of those fields which may lead some producers to thinking about a herbicide to dry those down to make harvest easier. While understandable there are a couple of problems there. First of all, with as fast as the wheat is turning the herbicides may not have much time to act on the weeds before the field is ready to harvest. Secondly, all labeled products have harvest waiting intervals from 3 to 14 days AND recropping restrictions. Call me for details. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.