Chris Prevatt

University of Florida, Extension Economist Range Cattle Research and Education Center 2018 Southern Outlook Conference September 26, 2018

The Southern Region covers a large area with wide climate, soil, terrain, forage species, and livestock system differences that influence the production and harvest of forage and hay crops.

- U.S. Pasture and Range Conditions
- Weather Outlook
- U.S. Forage Supply
- Value of Forage Production





US RANGE AND PASTURE CONDITION

Percent Poor and Very Poor, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

WESTERN REGION RANGE AND PASTURE CONDITION

Percent Poor and Very Poor, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

G-NP-31 09/24/18

GREAT PLAINS REGION RANGE AND PASTURE CONDITION



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

G-NP-32 09/24/18

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION RANGE AND PASTURE CONDITION



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

G-NP-33 09/24/18

SOUTHEAST REGION RANGE AND PASTURE CONDITION



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

G-NP-36 09/24/18

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U.S. Drought Monitor Southeast

September 18, 2018

(Released Thursday, Sep. 20, 2018) Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Jessica Blunden NCEI/NOAA



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/















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U.S. Hay Production, 1990-2018



U.S. Hay Stocks, May 1, 2000-2018



Percentage Change in U.S. Hay Stocks, May 1, 2000-2018



U.S. HAY & HAY PRODUCT EXPORTS

Annual

Thous. Metric Tons



Data Source: USDA-FAS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

ALFALFA HAY EXPORTS

Annual



Thous. Metric Tons

Data Source: USDA-FAS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

OTHER HAY EXPORTS

Annual



Thous. Metric Tons

Data Source: USDA-FAS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC

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Hay, Forage, and Feedstuff Prices



ALFALFA HAY – MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICE

Received by Farmers, U.S., Crop Year



Data Source: USDA-NASS

G-P-12 08/31/18

OTHER HAY – MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICE

Received by Farmers, U.S., Crop Year



Data Source: USDA-NASS

G-P-13 08/31/18

CENTRAL ILLINOIS SOYBEAN MEAL (48%) PRICES

Weekly



DISTILLERS DRIED GRAIN PRICES

Chicago, Illinois, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS

Corn Prices Impact The Value of Forage

CME Corn Futures

- December 2018 December 2020
- \$3.63 \$4.10, *\$/bushel*
- Cheap corn keeps "Cost of Gain" low in the feedlot
- Cheap corn limits "Value of Gain" from grass for Stocker and Cow-Calf producers and the value of hay/haylage*

*Assuming that corn continues to be the benchmark to value feedstuffs

KANSAS FEEDLOT CLOSEOUTS

Feeding Costs per Cwt., Steers



Data Source: KSU Focus on Feedlots, Compiled by LMIC

Focus on Feedlots





Kansas Feedlot Performance and Feed Cost Summary* Justin Waggoner, Extension Beef Systems Specialist, Kansas State University

July, 2018 Closeout Information

					-				
		In	Final	Avg. Days	Avg.	Feed/Gain	%	Avg. Cost	Projected Cost of Gain
Sex	No	Weight	Weight	on Feed	Daily Gain	(Dry Basis)	Death Loss	of Gain/Cwt.	Current Month's Placed Cattle
Steers	45977	762	1366	169	3.53	5.98	1.45	\$76.56	\$73.50
				(136 - 225)	(3.35 - 3.68)	(5.68 - 6.41)		\$69.36 - \$86.16	\$70.00 - \$78.00
Heifers	24718	712	1255	167	3.10	6.34	2.35	\$82.25	\$76.67
				(140 - 236)	(2.78 - 3.40)	(5.90 - 6.79)		\$73.99 - \$91.90	\$74.00 - \$81.00
Current Feed Inventory Costs: Mid-August, 2018							Range		No. Yards
Corn	Corn \$3.91 /bu					\$3.55-\$4.19			8
Ground Alfalfa Hay \$173.85 /ton				/ton	\$120.00 - \$208.88			8	

*Appreciation is expressed to these Kansas Feedyards: Brookover Ranch Feed Yard, Deseret Cattle Feeders, Hoxie Feedyard, HyPlains Feed Yard, Kearny County Feeders, Poky Feeders, Pratt Feeders, and Supreme Cattle Feeders.

**Closeout figures are the means of individual feedyard monthly averages and include feed, yardage, processing, medication, death loss and usually sold FOB the feedlot with a 4% pencil shrink. Interest charges normally are not included.

K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.

KANSAS FEEDLOT CLOSEOUTS

Feeding Costs per Cwt., Steers



Data Source: KSU Focus on Feedlots, Compiled by LMIC

Stocker Producers

- Current *Avg.* "Value of Gain" of **\$0.50-\$0.75**/*lb.* isn't very appealing.
- Producers must either....

Green Grass Fever

- Find ways to **lower their cost of gain** (focus on most productive forage sites, procure stockers with a higher level of performance, lower health risks, etc.)
- **Get Lucky** when they bet on the improving market prices and calf gains to enhance VOG

Forage Cost of Gain



Projected 2018-2019 Forage Cost of Gain

- Wheat Pasture : \$0.30 \$0.45/*lb*.
- SE Cool-Season Annual Forages: \$0.50 \$0.65/lb.
- Summer Annuals: \$0.30 \$0.40/lb.

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What will ALL of This Mean Moving Forward...

Even with "good weather for growing and harvesting and all our technological advances" it continues to be cheaper to let the cows harvest the grass.





Pasture and Range Conditions overall are expected to be about average.

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor

Cow-Calf Producers Need to:

- Continue to wage war on forage and feeding costs (focus on mgt. & resources)
- Prepare for the next drought...







You can still go broke with good soil...

- Chris Prevatt



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