WHEAT PASTURE

November 15, 1966

Forage supplies available from seeded winter wheat were mostly poor to fair on November 15, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Dry soil conditions have limited wheat development throughout the 3 State wheat pasture region. Wheat acreage with sufficient top growth and with roots well enough anchored for grazing is considerably below a year earlier. The only wheat growth with a rating of good is in that part of northwestern Texas where considerable wheat is grown under irrigation. Poor conditions predominate throughout central Kansas and north central Oklahoma. Livestock in these areas are obtaining only a small percent of their feed supply from wheat pasture. Prospects for wheat grazing for the remainder of the season in these areas are not good. Sorghum stubble, native pasture, and supplemental feed are furnishing the bulk of the feed supply.

Nearly 22 percent of the seeded wheat had sufficient growth to pasture at mid-November compared with 56 percent a year earlier. Approximately 10 percent of the seeded acreage was being pastured at mid-month compared with 24 percent last year. A heavy rain would tie down the wheat plants and brighten grazing prospects. It is getting late in the season and such a rain is needed soon to extend present usage and create additional wheat pasture.

KANSAS (WESTERN): Wheat pasture feed supplies on November 15 were generally poor and considerably below a year earlier. Wheat development has been slow due to a cumulative lack of moisture. Much of the area has received little or no moisture since the wheat was seeded. Some wheat fields in the western districts have sufficient top growth for fair grazing. Irrigated fields are supplying a good portion of the feed supply being obtained from wheat pasture.

In central Kansas very little wheat has sufficient growth for grazing. Isolated areas have some wheat grazing, but in general, a small portion of the total feed supply is being obtained from wheat pasture. In addition to having only limited growth, the wheat is poorly rooted and pulls too easily for grazing. The soil is loose and a good rain is needed over the entire area to pack the fields and promote

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growth. The season is getting late and prospects are diminished for general utilization of wheat pasture this year. On November 15 only 3.5 percent of the seeded wheat acreage was being pastured compared with 14 percent at this date a year ago. Reports indicate approximately 11 percent of the acreage had sufficient growth to pasture compared with 46 percent a year earlier.

OKLAHOMA (WESTERN): Dry weather since mid-October has resulted in poor growth and development of wheat pasture. At mid-November only 26 percent of the seeded acreage had sufficient growth to pasture compared with 65 percent a year earlier. Ten percent of the seeded acreage was being grazed compared with 29 percent at this date last year. Highest utilization is in the Panhandle counties and the southwest and west central areas. Wheat pastures are usually good in the north central district but are nearly non-existent this year. Heavy rain could brighten the situation but many areas appear to have little pasturing potential. Present carrying capacity is low and many farmers who generally rely on wheat pasture are feeding hay and protein cubes. A hard killing frost in early November also contributed to slow growth. Throughout most of the State plants are not firmly anchored causing "pull up" where grazing is taking place.

TEXAS (NORTHERN PLAINS AND SOUTHERN LOW PLAINS): Approximately 44 percent of the seeded acreage had sufficient growth to pasture at mid-November compared with 68 percent a year earlier. Prospects for wheat grazing were bright earlier, but have faded in recent weeks. Most irrigated fields have good growth and are supplying lush grazing for livestock. Dryland wheat lacked that one extra rain needed to make good pasture. Much dryland wheat is too poorly rooted to permit grazing. Unless rain is received soon, cattle presently on dryland wheat pasture will have to be moved. Sorghum stubbles are supplementing wheat pastures. Portions of the region covered in Texas are primarily rangeland with little wheat seeded.

AVAILABLE WHEAT PASTURE
OCTOBER 15, 1966 and NOVEMBER 15, 1965 and 1966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent of seeded wheat with sufficient growth to pasture</th>
<th>Percent of seeded wheat being pastured</th>
<th>Acres of wheat pasture required to carry a 400 pound calf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Kansas</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Oklahoma</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Panhandle</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average for wheat pasture region</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.1%</strong></td>
<td><strong>21.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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WINTER WHEAT - TOP GROWTH AVAILABLE FOR GRAZING*

NOVEMBER 15, 1966

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