

2009
BEEF, RANGE & PASTURE SITUATION
VICTORIA COUNTY

Beef cattle and the management of rangeland and pastures to provide forage for beef cattle continues to be one of the most important economic commodities in Victoria County.

The county is listed as having 40,000 beef cows. The total gross income from the sale of an estimated 41,260 calves, cull cows, and breeding cattle was \$23,052,000.

2009 has been a year to remember with Victoria County experiencing one of the most severe droughts ever. Rainfall totaled 30.8 inches with most in the fall and winter months. Over 6 inches fell in September alone. The prediction for the rest of the winter is cold and wet. Temperatures ranged from 25 degrees in January to 104 in August. It's interesting to note that we had 35 days with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees.

Range and pasture conditions have been fair to poor. Hay inventories have been few and far between. Several producers implemented supplemental feeding programs during the spring and summer months. Feed costs have sky rocketed and forage availability is at a shortage with many cattle going into the winter months in below average body condition.

To cope with the dry conditions, many producers implemented early weaning programs, sold replacement heifers, and began a strict culling protocol. Prices for quality replacements were cheaper than in 2008 and despite a decline in consumer demand, calf prices continued to hold steady.

BEEF, RANGE & PASTURE PRODUCTION				
YEAR	% CALF CROP	CALF PRICES ¢/LB	COW PRICES ¢/LB	% OF CO. AG INCOME
2009	75	1.05	0.50	51
2008	78	1.00	0.49	40
2007	80	1.15	0.52	48
2006	78	1.25	0.50	54
2005	82	1.23	0.55	51
2004	80	1.15	0.50	50
2003	78	1.00	0.30	45
2002	82	0.80	0.32	45
2001	82	0.85	0.34	37
2000	82	0.85	0.34	33
1999	85	0.82	0.32	24
1998	75	0.83	0.35	48
1997	50	0.67	0.33	26
1996	50	0.48	0.22	20
1995	74	0.68	0.35	26
1994	79	0.73	0.40	35
1993	71	0.86	0.43	46
1992	65	0.89	0.35	44
1991	65	1.00	0.50	42
1990	80	0.90	0.42	39
1989	70	0.80	0.45	45
1988	70	0.80	0.45	41
1987	-	-	-	40
1986	-	-	-	33
1985	-	-	-	33
1984	-	-	-	37
1983	-	-	-	31
1982	-	0.60	0.41	28
1981	-	0.66	0.43	27
1980	-	0.79	0.45	33
1979	-	0.84	0.50	38

2009

Total County Agricultural Income	\$45,031,000
Income from Beef, Range & Pasture	\$23,052,000
Percent Income from Beef, Range & Pasture	51%