

USDA reported the percentage of the nation's pastures rated in "poor" or "very poor" condition held steady at 59 percent week over week for the week ended Aug 12 — compared with 39 percent at this time last year — although within that combined number, 1 percent of the pastureland had slipped from "poor" to "very poor."

It rated just 17 percent of U.S. pastures in "good" or "very good" condition, up from 16 percent a week ago and compared to 37 percent at this time last year.

### **Corn**

In its weekly Crop Progress report, USDA increased its estimate of corn fields in "poor" or "very poor" condition to 51 percent from 50 percent a week before and just 15 percent this time last year. The agency held steady on its estimate of cornfields in "good" or "excellent" condition at 23 percent, compared with 60 percent at this time last year.

### **Soybeans**

USDA rated 38 percent of the soybean crop in major producing states in "poor" or "very poor" condition, down from 39 percent a week ago and compared to just 13 percent at this time last year.

The agency estimated that the soybean fields in "good" or "excellent" condition at 30 percent, compared to 61 percent at this time last year.

Already 83 percent of the soybean crop has advanced to the critical pod-setting stage, up from 71 percent a week ago. The five-year average for this time of year is 70 percent.