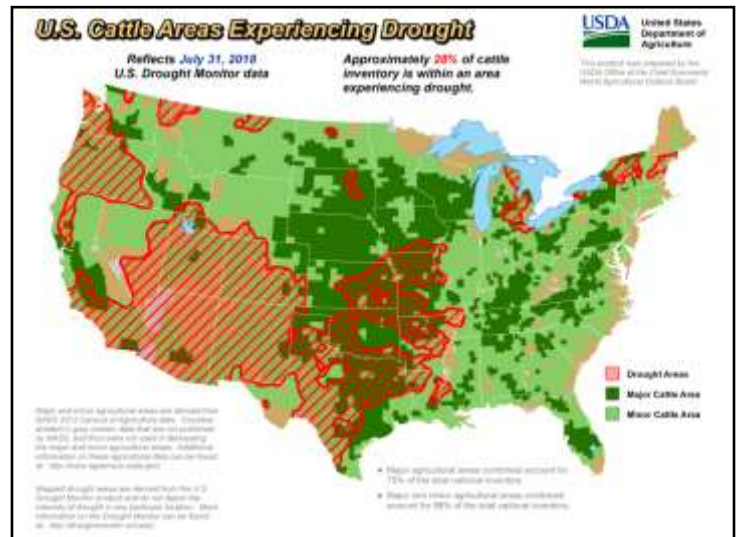
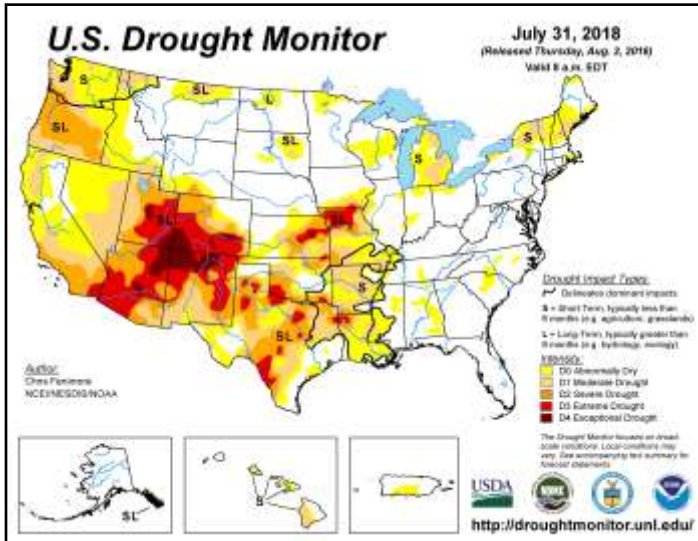


USDA NASS releases the [Crop Progress](#) report updating field conditions for major crops and seasonally, May through October, pasture and range conditions. All year, and certainly through the grazing season the [drought monitor](#) has shown abnormally dry conditions in the southern U.S. west of the Mississippi River. Approximately, 20% of the continental U.S. is in a state of severe drought or worse.

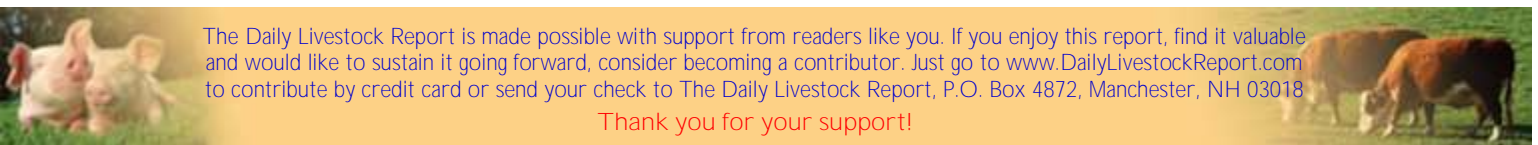
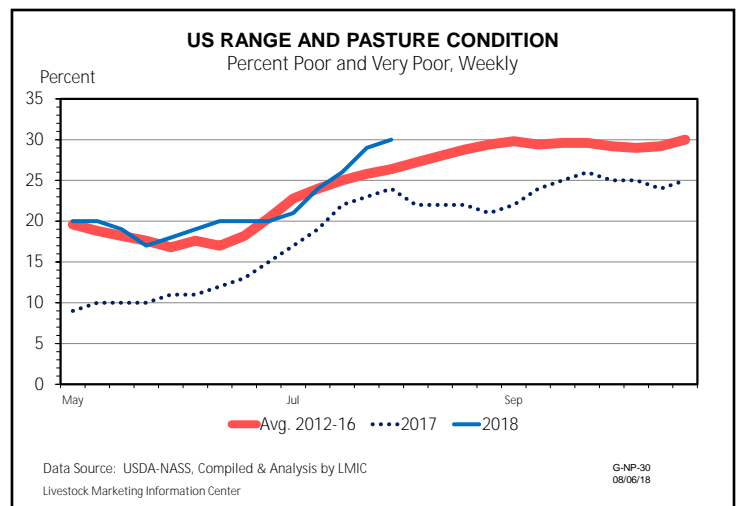


The [World Agricultural Outlook Board](#) uses drought indicators and 2012 Agricultural Census data to estimate the percent of agricultural production that is located in those areas. Using the drought monitor above, it estimates that 29% of total hay acreage is located in these areas and 28% of cattle. In the 2012 Agricultural Census, it was estimated that there were 90 million head of cattle (all cattle and calves) compared to the latest July 1 inventory in 2018, estimating herd size at 102 million head. This map may be underestimating the number of cattle in those areas. LMIC estimates that over 30% of beef cows are in areas that are reporting more than 40% of pasture and range conditions that are poor and very poor. In these areas, supplemental feeding is required to maintain herd health.

The national pasture and range condition ratings for the most recent week estimated 30% of pasture and range conditions are poor and very poor condition. The Western region is facing significantly higher proportions, over 45% in those conditions for the states of AZ, CA, ID, NV, NM, OR, UT, and WA. The Southern Plains (TX and OK) are

facing similar situation, and this week are listed as 42% of pasture and range conditions are poor to very poor.

Beef cow slaughter has been running higher all year, up 11% year-to-date, but its difficult to assess how much of that is drought induced culling. USDA NASS monthly slaughter data shows cow weights dipped below a year ago in the month of June by 4 pounds. The previous five months cow weights averaged slightly higher than the prior year. There have been some reports of culling related to drought, but the data is not definitively pointing in that direction at this time.



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