**Help producers recover from weather**

While drought plagued much of the western United States, heavy rainfalls elsewhere made for poor pasture conditions last grazing season. The pasture management experts at Corteva Agriscience weigh in on what producers can do to improve their pastures following a challenging season.

“The effects of extreme drought can linger for many years,” says Will Hatler, Idaho-based field scientist for Corteva Agriscience. “I always encourage producers to regularly scout their fields and identify areas that have been especially stressed by drought.”

In areas that experienced drought, Hatler recommends taking the following steps to aid in recovery when moisture returns:

* Scout early and often; understand what’s changing.
* Defer grazing to allow as much recovery time as possible.
* Control weeds early to help give grasses a head start.
* Be patient; true recovery can take several years.

“On the other hand, when pastures receive excess moisture, they can become muddy from hoof traffic, and those openings allow weeds to encroach,” says Scott Flynn, Missouri-based field scientist for Corteva Agriscience. “While pasture injury is largely unavoidable during wet conditions, rotational grazing and protecting high-traffic areas can help.”

Hatler and Flynn recommend controlling weeds in the early spring. Removing weeds at the start of the season gives grass a jump-start on production.