First Cutting
Forage Quality Summary
for May 26, 2015

This is the third and last monitoring report for 1st cutting quality for this year. If you are not familiar with our procedures we use alfalfa height to predict Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) for alfalfa, alfalfa/grass mixed and grass stands. Alfalfa height has proven to be a reliable indicator of NDF values in the field.

Here are numbers that are helpful when using alfalfa and grass height as an indicator of NDF content:

In general we say 100% grass stands should be cut when nearby alfalfa is 14 inches tall to achieve the desired 50% NDF. Begin cutting 50/50 mixed alfalfa and grass stands when nearby alfalfa is 22 inches tall for the desired 44% NDF. Begin cutting 100% alfalfa stands when alfalfa is 28 inches tall for the desired 40% NDF.

The desired NDF for all grass fields is 50%, 50/50 mixed alfalfa and grass fields is 44%, and pure alfalfa stands is 40%. Predicted days to cut are based on daily NDF increases for grasses of 1% point, 50/50 mixed stands of .8% points and alfalfa of .5% point. Typically NDF increases about 0.8 to 1.2/day for grasses expecting the lower end of that range in cooler weather and the higher end in warm. Alfalfa NDF increases about 0.4 to 0.7/day again figuring the lower end of that range with cool temperatures and the higher in warm. Predictions are adjusted for the coming week’s weather and right now we are assuming normal growth.

This third and final week of monitoring shows that 37% of all fields are cut. All grass fields should have been cut by now and if they aren’t consider letting grass fields go to harvest later for a lower quality feed to allow time to put in higher quality forage. Most mixed and pure alfalfa stands should be harvested by now so look at your fields and measure your own alfalfa to make management decisions appropriate for your farm.

Know your conditions!

Hope this information has been timely and valuable to your operation.

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## Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 26, 2015

### County Town Road Name Elevation Alfalfa Height Inches Predicted Grass % NDF Predicted 50/50 Mix % NDF Predicted Alfalfa % NDF Predicted Date to Cut Grass Predicted Date to Cut Mix Predicted Date to Cut Alfalfa

### Chenango
- **Alford** County Road 26 966 28 61.2 48.3 38.1 5/14/15 5/20/15 5/25/15
- **Earleville** Coye Road 1080 27 66.3 47.5 37.4 5/13/15 5/21/15 5/27/15
- **Greene** State Route 12 919 29 62.1 49.2 38.8 5/13/15 5/19/15 5/24/15
- **Guilford** Ivy Settlement Road 1450 Cut
- **Oxford** County Road 32 956 30 62.9 50.1 39.5 5/13/15 5/18/15 5/23/15
- **Sherburne** County Road 24 1354 20 54.3 41.4 32.5 5/21/15 5/29/15 6/6/15
- **Sherburne** Cash Hill Road 1190 28 61.2 48.3 38.1 5/14/15 5/20/15 5/25/15
- **Sherburne** Furman Mills Road 1350 22 56.0 43.2 33.9 5/19/15 5/27/15 6/3/15
- **Sherburne** New Tunipple Road 1300 29 62.1 49.2 38.8 5/13/15 5/19/15 5/24/15
- **Sherburne** Schmidt Road 1590 19 53.4 40.6 31.8 5/22/15 5/30/15 6/7/15
- **Sherburne** State Route 12 1050 33 65.5 52.7 41.6 5/10/15 5/15/15 5/18/15
- **Sherburne** State Route 80 1190 Cut
- **Sherburne** West Hill Road 1303 26 59.5 46.6 36.7 5/16/15 5/22/15 5/28/15
- **Smyrna** County Road 14 1078 30 62.9 50.1 39.5 5/13/15 5/18/15 5/23/15
- **Smyrna** County Road 20 1090 36 68.1 53.2 43.7 5/7/15 5/11/15 5/14/15
- **Smyrna** Flat Iron Road 1180 Cut
- **Smyrna** Howard Hill Road 1256 26 59.5 46.6 36.7 5/16/15 5/22/15 5/28/15
- **Ephratah** County Road 140 675 Cut
- **Fulton** Johnstown State Route 67 765 Cut
- **Oppenheim** Youkers Bush Road 845 32 64.6 51.8 40.9 5/11/15 5/16/15 5/20/15
- **Herkimer** Columbus Jordanville Road 1586 27 60.3 47.5 37.4 5/15/15 5/21/15 5/27/15
- **Herkimer** Dansbe Cramer Road 821 31 65.8 50.9 40.2 5/12/15 5/17/15 5/21/15
- **Herkimer** Fairfield Top Notch Road 1183 Cut
- **Herkimer** German Flatts Robinson Road 1372 23 56.9 44.0 34.6 5/19/15 5/25/15 6/1/15
- **Salisbury** State Route 170A 1232 29 62.1 49.2 38.8 5/13/15 5/19/15 5/24/15
- **Herkimer** Schulyer Carder Lane 446 32 64.6 51.8 40.9 5/11/15 5/16/15 5/20/15
- **Herkimer** Winfield North Winfield Road 1243 27 60.3 47.5 37.4 5/15/15 5/21/15 5/27/15
- **Camperdown** Carman Road 851 Cut
- **Florida** Cemetery Road 605 30 62.9 50.1 39.5 5/13/15 5/18/15 5/23/15

## Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 26, 2015, continued...

### County Town Road Name Elevation Alfalfa Height Inches Predicted Grass % NDF Predicted 50/50 Mix % NDF Predicted Alfalfa % NDF Predicted Date to Cut Grass Predicted Date to Cut Mix Predicted Date to Cut Alfalfa

- **Montgomery** Florida Mohr Road 840 29 62.1 49.2 38.8 5/13/15 5/19/15 5/24/15
- **Montgomery** Minden Airport Road 653 30 62.9 50.1 39.5 5/13/15 5/18/15 5/23/15
- **Montgomery** Minden Schuyler Road 574 Cut
- **Montgomery** Mohawk Hickory Hill Road 420 Cut
- **Montgomery** Pataline Dygert Road 550 Cut
- **Montgomery** Pataline State Route 5 329 30 62.9 50.1 39.5 5/13/15 5/18/15 5/23/15
- **Onego** Milford County Road 35 1200 24 57.7 44.9 35.3 5/13/15 5/24/15 5/31/15
- **Onego** New Berlin County Road 29 1270 Cut
- **Onego** New Lisbon State Route 51 1254 29 62.1 49.2 38.8 5/13/15 5/19/15 5/24/15
- **Onego** Otego State Route 7 1060 Cut
- **Onego** Unadilla State Route 8 980 Cut
- **Onego** Cherry Valley County Road 32A 787 24 57.7 44.9 35.3 5/18/15 5/24/15 5/31/15
- **Onego** Cherry Valley State Route 166 1291 28 61.2 48.3 38.1 5/14/15 5/20/15 5/25/15
- **Onego** Maryland Tremop Road 1288 26 59.5 46.6 36.7 5/16/15 5/22/15 5/28/15
- **Onego** Plainfield County Road 18 1118 28 61.2 48.3 38.1 5/14/15 5/20/15 5/25/15
- **Onego** Richfield Jordan Road 1712 Cut
- **Onego** Springfield Briar Hill Road 1583 22 56.0 43.2 33.9 5/19/15 5/25/15 6/3/15
- **Saratoga** Charlton Jockey Street 635 32 64.6 51.8 40.9 5/11/15 5/16/15 5/20/15
- **Saratoga** Galway Crane Road 830 30 62.9 50.1 39.5 5/13/15 5/18/15 5/23/15
- **Saratoga** Moreau Burt Road 245 Cut
- **Saratoga** Northumberland West River Road 256 Cut
- **Saratoga** Saratoga County Road 68 225 Cut
- **Saratoga** Stillwater Burke Road 382 Cut
- **Schoharie** Brome Woods Road 1168 Cut
- **Schoharie** Fulton State Route 30 617 Cut
- **Schoharie** Middleburgh Amelia Lane 631 Cut
- **Schoharie** Middleburgh Claverwie Road 665 Cut
- **Schoharie** Richmondville Warrenville Coffin 953 34 66.4 53.5 42.3 5/9/15 5/14/15 5/17/15
- **Schoharie** Seward Lawes Road 1181 26 59.5 46.6 36.7 5/16/15 5/22/15 5/28/15
- **Schoharie** Wright Rickard Hill Road 1065 25 58.6 45.8 36.0 5/10/15 5/16/15 5/23/15