

1st Cutting Forage Quality Update

Grass fields and most mixed stands should be cut at this time. There also have pure alfalfa fields that are ready for harvest. That is not particularly good news as last night many parts of the project area received another dump of rain which made fields saturated again. The current weather conditions are making for difficult management decisions but consider stop trying to plant corn and work on dairy quality first cutting when weather allows. If there is still quality there to be harvested it may be best to take it. Although the corn planting window is getting smaller it is still there. However it cannot be stressed enough that each farm and field is different so know your conditions.

Here are three numbers that are helpful using alfalfa height as an indicator of NDF content:

Begin cutting 100% grass stands when nearby alfalfa is **14** inches tall for 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.

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 20, 2011

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	Bainbridge	Ives Settlement	1400	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/11	5/24/11	6/1/11
Chenango	Brisben	State Route 12	919	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Chenango	Earlville	Williams Road	1075	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Chenango	Lincklaen	Lincklaen Center Road	1270	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/11/11	5/18/11	5/25/11
Chenango	New Berlin	County Road 18	1109	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Chenango	Nineveh	County Road 26	966	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/11	5/21/11	5/28/11
Chenango	Oxford	State Route 220	1509	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/19/11	5/28/11	6/7/11
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	980	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/11	5/21/11	5/28/11
Chenango	S. Oxford	County Road 32	956	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Chenango	Sherburne	Furman Mills Road	1360	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/13/11	5/22/11	5/29/11
Chenango	Sherburne	West Hill Road	1364	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Chenango	Sherburne	Bingham Road	1109	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/9/11	5/16/11	5/22/11
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12 South	1046	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/9/11	5/16/11	5/22/11
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1357	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/11	5/24/11	6/1/11
Chenango	Sidney	State Route 8	980	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1140	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/9/11	5/16/11	5/22/11
Fulton	Johnstown	Union Street	610	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/13/11	5/22/11	5/29/11
Fulton	Oppenheim	Youkers Bush Road	965	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Fulton	Perth	Noonan Road	700	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/7/11	5/14/11	5/19/11
Fulton	St. Johnsville	County Road 140	659	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/9/11	5/16/11	5/22/11
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	693	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/11	5/24/11	6/1/11
Herkimer	Norway	Elm Tree Road	1123	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/16/11	5/25/11	6/2/11

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Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 20, 2011

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Herkimer	Schulyer	Minots Corners Road	716	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/11	5/21/11	5/28/11
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Madison	Bridgewater	State Route 8	1190	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Madison	Cazenovia	East Road	1402	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/11/11	5/18/11	5/25/11
Madison	Chittenango	Quarry Road	640	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/7/11	5/13/11	5/18/11
Madison	DeRuyter	Quaker Basin Road	1365	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Madison	Earlville	Excell Road	1300	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/11/11	5/18/11	5/25/11
Madison	Fenner	Fenner Road	1304	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Madison	Hamilton	Eaton Street	1180	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Madison	Hubbardsville	Wickwire Road	1224	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/11/11	5/18/11	5/25/11
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1134	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Madison	Lebanon	Jantzen Road	1394	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Madison	Madison	Center Road	1219	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Madison	Smithfield	Gill Road	1196	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/7/11	5/14/11	5/19/11
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Old Sharon Road	818	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/14/11	5/23/11	5/31/11
Montgomery	Florida	Pattersonville Road	367	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/8/11	5/15/11	5/21/11
Montgomery	Florida	Buhrmaster Road	800	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/9/11	5/16/11	5/22/11
Montgomery	Minden	Schuyler Road	590	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/11/11	5/18/11	5/25/11
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	435	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/7/11	5/13/11	5/18/11
Montgomery	Mohawk	Pavlus Road	400	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/7/11	5/13/11	5/18/11
Montgomery	Palatine Bridge	Dygert Road	492	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/11	5/21/11	5/28/11
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Walrath Road	538	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/14/11	5/23/11	5/31/11
Otsego	Cherry Valley	Dugay Road	763	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/7/11	5/14/11	5/19/11

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Otsego	Cooperstown	County Road 33	1532	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/11	5/24/11	6/1/11
Otsego	Garrettsville	State Route 51	1254	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/11	5/24/11	6/1/11
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1072	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Otsego	Plainfield	County Road 18	1118	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/8/11	5/15/11	5/21/11
Otsego	Portlandville	County Road 35	1200	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/11	5/21/11	5/28/11
Otsego	Richfield	State Route 20	1712	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/11	5/24/11	6/1/11
Otsego	Worcester	County Road 40	1450	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	668	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/7/11	5/13/11	5/18/11
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/8/11	5/15/11	5/21/11
Schoharie	Schoharie	Abram Road	971	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/8/11	5/15/11	5/21/11
Schoharie	Seward	Loonenburg Road	1174	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/11	5/24/11	6/1/11
Schoharie	Sharon Springs	Maring Road	728	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/10/11	5/17/11	5/24/11
Schoharie	Sharon Springs	Briggs Road	1220	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Schoharie	Wright	Sheldon Road	1330	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/12/11	5/19/11	5/26/11
Schoharie	Wright	Kump Road	1043	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/7/11	5/13/11	5/18/11

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