

1st Cutting Forage Quality Update

We have begun monitoring of 1st cutting for quality 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.

In the attached tables locations around the region are listed where we have measured alfalfa height. You can use the location and elevation as a guide to conditions that may be similar to your own.

As you can see at a number locations orchardgrass should be ready to harvest momentarily. Dry conditions seem to be the norm so the grass growth doesn't appear to be as dense as it should be for this time of year. The observation is that spots in grass fields that have held more moisture are considerably denser than drier areas. Alfalfa fields are in much better shape in 2013 compared to 2012 when frost heaving and spring frost injury was common. As always use information in the attached table as a guide to know when to harvest by checking your fields! Next report May 14!

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 7, 2013

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	Afton	County Road 26	966	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Chenango	Greene	State Route 12	919	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Guilford	Ives Settlement Road	1400	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/10/13	5/21/13	6/1/13
Chenango	Linklaen	Linklaen Center Road	1255	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	1030	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	956	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Chenango	Preston	Griffin Road	1450	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/9/13	5/19/13	5/30/13
Chenango	Sherburne	Bingham Rd	1089	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1330	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Sherburne	Furman Mills Road	1245	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/9/13	5/19/13	5/30/13
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1067	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1200	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Chenango	Sherburne	West Hill Rd	1326	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1085	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1089	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	675	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13
Fulton	Oppenheim	Youkers Bush Road	975	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/9/13	5/19/13	5/30/13
Fulton	Perth	County Road 107	760	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	821	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Herkimer	German Flats	Robinson Road	1372	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Herkimer	Norway	Elm Tree Road	1123	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early

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Herkimer	Schulyer	Minots Corners Road	716	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/9/13	5/19/13	5/30/13
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1195	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Madison	Cazenovia	East Road	1419	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13
Madison	Deruyter	Quacker Basin Road	1351	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Madison	Earlville	Excell Road	1296	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1473	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/4/13	5/13/13	5/22/13
Madison	Hamilton	Eaton Street	1120	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Madison	Hubbardsville	Wickwire Road	1228	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Madison	Lebanon	Janzten Road	1382	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1265	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Madison	Madison	Center Road	1328	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Madison	Smithfield	Gill Road	1287	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Madison	Stockbridge	Strip Road	1569	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Madison	Sullivan	County Highway 23	602	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/2/13	5/11/13	5/19/13
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	855	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Montgomery	Florida	Buhrmaster Road	790	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Montgomery	Florida	Pattersonville Road	425	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/4/13	5/13/13	5/22/13
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	435	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/3/13	5/12/13	5/20/13
Montgomery	Minden	Schuyler Road	620	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/9/13	5/19/13	5/30/13
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygert Road	550	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13
Montgomery	Palatine	Hickory Hill Road	875	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/10/13	5/21/13	6/1/13
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	State Route 5	400	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/26/13

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Otsego	Cherry Valley	County Road 32A	787	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Otsego	Maryland	Tromp Road	1288	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Otsego	Middlefield	County Road 33	1532	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Milford	County Road 35	1200	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/9/13	5/19/13	5/30/13
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1254	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/10/13	5/21/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1060	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Otsego	Pittsfield	County Road 18	1109	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/8/13	5/18/13	5/29/13
Otsego	Plainfield	County Road 18	1118	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/10/13	5/21/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1712	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1520	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/10/13	5/21/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 2	980	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	635	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Saratoga	Moreau	Burt Road	220	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/9/13	5/19/13	5/30/13
Saratoga	Northumberland	West River Road	250	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/5/13	5/14/13	5/23/13
Schoharie	Fulton	Mill Valley Road	1139	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	660	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/6/13	5/15/13	5/25/13
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	627	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/4/13	5/13/13	5/22/13
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/5/13	5/14/13	5/23/13
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13
Schoharie	Wright	Abrams Road	1023	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/7/13	5/17/13	5/27/13

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