

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cutting Forage Quality Update

This is our second week of monitoring 1<sup>st</sup> cutting for quality in 2013. 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.

**Since last week alfalfa height has increased as much as 4-6 inches. As you can see at many locations pure grass stands should already be harvested and mixed stands should be cut before next Tuesday. Although there was frost on Tuesday morning and alfalfa and grasses were bent over from the cold we did not observe much if any frost damage. Most stands seemed to recover as the day warmed up without any permanent wilting. As always use information in the attached table as a guide to know when to harvest by checking your fields. Next report May 21!**

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 14, 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	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Greene	State Route 12	919	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Guilford	Ives Settlement Road	1400	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/12/13	5/21/13	5/30/13
Chenango	Linklaen	Linklaen Center Road	1255	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/11/13	5/20/13	5/29/13
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	1030	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	956	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Chenango	Preston	Griffin Road	1450	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/14/13	5/23/13	6/2/13
Chenango	Sherburne	Bingham Rd	1089	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1330	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/14/13	5/24/13	6/3/13
Chenango	Sherburne	Furman Mills Road	1245	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/12/13	5/21/13	5/30/13
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1067	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/8/13	5/17/13	5/25/13
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1200	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/8/13	5/17/13	5/25/13
Chenango	Sherburne	West Hill Rd	1326	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1085	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/8/13	5/17/13	5/25/13
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1089	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/23/13
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	675	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/23/13
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/8/13	5/17/13	5/25/13
Fulton	Oppenheim	Youkers Bush Road	975	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Fulton	Perth	County Road 107	760	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/14/13	5/24/13	6/3/13
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	821	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/12/13	5/21/13	5/30/13
Herkimer	Norway	Elm Tree Road	1123	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/15/13	5/25/13	6/5/13

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Herkimer	Schulyer	Minots Corners Road	716	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/12/13	5/21/13	5/30/13
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/14/13	5/24/13	6/3/13
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1195	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Madison	Cazenovia	East Road	1419	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/7/13	5/15/13	5/22/13
Madison	Deruyter	Quacker Basin Road	1351	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Madison	Earlville	Excell Road	1296	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1473	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Madison	Hamilton	Eaton Street	1120	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Madison	Hubbardsville	Wickwire Road	1228	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Madison	Lebanon	Janzten Road	1382	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1265	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/11/13	5/20/13	5/29/13
Madison	Madison	Center Road	1328	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/13/13	5/22/13	6/1/13
Madison	Smithfield	Gill Road	1287	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Madison	Stockbridge	Strip Road	1569	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/11/13	5/20/13	5/29/13
Madison	Sullivan	County Highway 23	602	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/3/13	5/10/13	5/16/13
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	855	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/23/13
Montgomery	Florida	Buhrmaster Road	790	Cut						
Montgomery	Florida	Pattersonville Road	425	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/6/13	5/13/13	5/20/13
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	435	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/5/13	5/12/13	5/19/13
Montgomery	Minden	Schuyler Road	620	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/13/13	5/22/13	6/1/13
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	550	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/23/13
Montgomery	Palatine	Hickory Hill Road	875	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/13/13	5/22/13	6/1/13
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	State Route 5	400	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/8/13	5/17/13	5/25/13

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Otsego	Cherry Valley	County Route 32A	787	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/7/13	5/16/13	5/23/13
Otsego	Maryland	Tromp Road	1288	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Otsego	Middlefield	County Route 33	1532	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/14/13	5/24/13	6/3/13
Otsego	Milford	County Road 35	1200	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/12/13	5/21/13	5/30/13
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1254	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1060	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/10/13	5/19/13	5/27/13
Otsego	Pittsfield	County Road 18	1109	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/11/13	5/20/13	5/29/13
Otsego	Plainfield	County Route 18	1118	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/13/13	5/22/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1712	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/14/13	5/23/13	6/2/13
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1520	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/13/13	5/22/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 2	980	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	635	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Saratoga	Moreau	Burt Road	220	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/14/13	5/24/13	6/3/13
Saratoga	Northumberland	West River Road	250	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/8/13	5/17/13	5/25/13
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/6/13	5/13/13	5/20/13
Schoharie	Fulton	Mill Valley Road	1139	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	660	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/7/13	5/15/13	5/22/13
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	627	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/5/13	5/12/13	5/19/13
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/7/13	5/15/13	5/22/13
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/8/13	5/17/13	5/25/13
Schoharie	Wright	Abrams Road	1023	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/9/13	5/18/13	5/26/13

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