

1st Cutting Forage Quality Update

This is our fourth and final week of monitoring 1st 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 3-6 inches. To date 24 of the 67 fields in the project have been cut. At all locations pure grass stands should already be harvested and most mixed stands should be cut. This week certainly shows the differences across locations as there are still alfalfa stands at higher elevations that are predicted to be a week away from the optimal cut date. Hopefully recent rains will push second cutting to help improve forage inventories. We continue to see alfalfa weevil in the first cutting so as you cut alfalfa stands check regrowth for feeding. Second cutting that isn't growing back is a good indication weevil is present, but don't wait to let that happen. Scout your fields! As always use information in the attached table as a guide to know when to harvest by checking your fields. This was our last report for 2013, hope the information was useful!

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 28, 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	Cut						
Chenango	Greene	State Route 12	919	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/17/13	5/24/13	5/30/13
Chenango	Guilford	Ives Settlement Road	1400	Cut						
Chenango	Linklaen	Linklaen Center Road	1255	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/15/13	5/22/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	1030	Cut						
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	956	Cut						
Chenango	Preston	Griffin Road	1450	Cut						
Chenango	Sherburne	Bingham Rd	1089	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/17/13	5/24/13	5/30/13
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1330	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/22/13	5/31/13	6/8/13
Chenango	Sherburne	Furman Mills Road	1245	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/21/13	5/29/13	6/5/13
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1067	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/16/13	5/23/13	5/29/13
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1200	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/15/13	5/22/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Sherburne	West Hill Rd	1326	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/17/13	5/24/13	5/30/13
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1085	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/15/13	5/22/13	5/27/13
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1089	Cut						
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	675	Cut						
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	32	65.5	51.8	40.9	5/12/13	5/18/13	5/22/13
Fulton	Oppenheim	Youkers Bush Road	975	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/15/13	5/22/13	5/27/13
Fulton	Perth	County Road 107	760	Cut						
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/21/13	5/29/13	6/5/13
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	821	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/16/13	5/23/13	5/29/13
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/17/13	5/24/13	5/30/13
Herkimer	Norway	Elm Tree Road	1123	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/22/13	5/31/13	6/8/13

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Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 28, 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
Herkimer	Schulyer	Minots Corners Road	716	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/19/13	5/26/13	6/2/13
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/20/13	5/27/13	6/3/13
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1195	30	63.8	50.1	39.5	5/14/13	5/20/13	5/25/13
Madison	Cazenovia	East Road	1419	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/15/13	5/21/13	5/26/13
Madison	Deruyter	Quacker Basin Road	1351	Cut						
Madison	Earlville	Excell Road	1296	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/17/13	5/24/13	5/30/13
Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1473	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/16/13	5/23/13	5/29/13
Madison	Hamilton	Eaton Street	1120	Cut						
Madison	Hubbardsville	Wickwire Road	1228	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/16/13	5/23/13	5/29/13
Madison	Lebanon	Janzten Road	1382	Cut						
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1265	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/20/13	5/27/13	6/3/13
Madison	Madison	Center Road	1328	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/19/13	5/26/13	6/2/13
Madison	Smithfield	Gill Road	1287	Cut						
Madison	Stockbridge	Strip Road	1569	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/16/13	5/23/13	5/29/13
Madison	Sullivan	County Road 23	602	36	69.0	55.2	43.7	5/9/13	5/13/13	5/16/13
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	855	31	64.7	50.9	40.2	5/13/13	5/19/13	5/23/13
Montgomery	Florida	Buhrmaster Road	790	Cut						
Montgomery	Florida	Pattersonville Road	425	33	66.4	52.7	41.6	5/11/13	5/17/13	5/20/13
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	435	35	68.1	54.4	43.0	5/9/13	5/15/13	5/18/13
Montgomery	Minden	Schuyler Road	620	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/20/13	5/27/13	6/3/13
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygert Road	550	Cut						
Montgomery	Palatine	Hickory Hill Road	875	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/20/13	5/27/13	6/3/13
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	State Route 5	400	Cut						

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Otsego	Milford	County Road 35	1200	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/19/13	5/26/13	6/2/13
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1254	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/15/13	5/22/13	5/27/13
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1060	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/15/13	5/22/13	5/27/13
Otsego	Pittsfield	County Road 18	1109	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/18/13	5/25/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 2	980	Cut						
Otsego	Cherry Valley	County Route 32A	787	Cut						
Otsego	Maryland	Tromp Road	1288	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/18/13	5/25/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Middlefield	County Route 33	1532	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/22/13	5/31/13	6/8/13
Otsego	Plainfield	County Route 18	1118	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/18/13	5/25/13	6/1/13
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1712	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/21/13	5/29/13	6/5/13
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1520	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/21/13	5/29/13	6/5/13
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	635	Cut						
Saratoga	Moreau	Burt Road	220	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/18/13	5/25/13	6/1/13
Saratoga	Northumberland	West River Road	250	Cut						
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	Cut						
Schoharie	Fulton	Mill Valley Road	1139	Cut						
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	660	Cut						
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	627	Cut						
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	Cut						
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/17/13	5/24/13	5/30/13
Schoharie	Wright	Abrams Road	1023	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/15/13	5/22/13	5/27/13

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