

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.

It is interesting to note that we are behind by about 10 days compared to some of our previous starts. As you can see at a number locations grass stands should be ready to harvest now or momentarily. But note the location differences as some fields may not be ready for another week. Elevation plays slight role here but not as much as you might think. As always use information in the attached table as a guide to know when to harvest by checking your fields! Next report May 20!

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 13, 2014

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	Afton	County Road 26	966	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Greene	State Route 12	919	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Guilford	Ives Settlement Road	1400	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Chenango	Linklaen	Linklaen Center Road	1209	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	956	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	1030	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Preston	Griffin Road	1450	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1067	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Bingham Rd	1089	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1092	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1200	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Furman Mills Road	1245	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Chenango	Sherburne	West Hill Rd	1326	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1330	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Schmidt Road	1540	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1085	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1089	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	675	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Fulton	Oppenheim	Youkers Bush Road	845	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/12/14	5/21/14	5/31/14
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	821	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14

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Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14
Herkimer	Norway	Elm Tree Road	1123	6	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	561	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1195	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Madison	Cazenovia	East Road	1419	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Madison	DeRuyter	Quacker Basin Road	1351	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Madison	Earlville	Borden Road	1133	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Madison	Earlville	Excell Road	1296	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1473	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Madison	Hamilton	Eaton Street	1120	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Madison	Hubbardsville	Wickwire Road	1228	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1295	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Madison	Lebanon	Janzten Road	1382	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Madison	Madison	Center Road	1328	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Madison	Smithfield	Gill Road	1287	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Madison	Stockbridge	Strip Road	1569	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/16/14	5/27/14	6/7/14
Madison	Sullivan	Harsh Road	475	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	855	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetary Road	605	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	840	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Montgomery	Minden	Spring Street	625	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	690	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14

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Montgomery	Mohawk	Hickory Hill Road	420	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygert Road	550	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/12/14	5/21/14	5/31/14
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	State Route 5	400	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Otsego	Milford	County Road 35	1200	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Otsego	New Berlin	County Road 29	1210	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1254	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1060	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 2	980	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Otsego	Cherry Valley	County Route 32A	787	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/15/14	5/25/14	6/5/14
Otsego	Maryland	Tromp Road	1288	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Otsego	Plainfield	County Route 18	1118	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1712	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Roseboom	State Route 166	1308	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1520	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	635	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/12/14	5/21/14	5/31/14
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	830	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Saratoga	Moreau	Burt Road	245	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Saratoga	Northumberland	West River Road	250	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	627	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	660	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14
Schoharie	Fulton	Mill Valley Road	1139	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14

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Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/12/14	5/21/14	5/31/14
Schoharie	Wright	Rickard Hill Road	1065	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/11/14	5/20/14	5/29/14

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