

1st Cutting Forage Quality Update

This is Week Two of our 1st cutting forage quality monitoring for the 2014 growing season. 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.

Alfalfa grew 5.2 inches taller on average this week. Of the 69 sites monitored 82% should be cut if they are pure grass stands and 13% of the sites if they are a 50/50 alfalfa grass mix. So get out and look at your fields! As always use information in the attached table as a guide to know when to harvest by checking your fields! Next report May 27!

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 20, 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	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Greene	State Route 12	919	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Guilford	Ives Settlement Road	1450	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/20/14	5/29/14	6/8/14
Chenango	Linklaen	Linklaen Center Road	1209	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/11/14	5/20/14	5/29/14
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	1030	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	956	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Preston	Griffin Road	1450	11	47.4	33.7	26.2	5/22/14	6/1/14	6/12/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Bingham Rd	1089	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1092	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/12/14	5/21/14	5/31/14
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1330	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Furman Mills Road	1245	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Schmidt Road	1540	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/14/14	5/24/14	6/4/14
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1067	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/8/14	5/17/14	5/25/14
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1200	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Chenango	Sherburne	West Hill Rd	1326	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1085	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1089	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	675	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/13/14	5/22/14	5/29/14
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/14/14	5/23/14	5/31/14
Fulton	Oppenheim	Youkers Bush Road	845	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/13/14	5/22/14	5/29/14
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/18/14	5/27/14	6/5/14
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	821	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/18/14	5/27/14	6/5/14

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Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 20, 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
Herkimer	Norway	Elm Tree Road	1123	10	46.5	32.8	25.5	5/23/14	6/3/14	6/14/14
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	561	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/20/14	5/29/14	6/8/14
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1195	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14
Madison	Cazenovia	East Road	1419	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Madison	DeRuyter	Quacker Basin Road	1351	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Madison	Earlville	Borden Road	1133	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/10/14	5/19/14	5/28/14
Madison	Earlville	Excell Road	1296	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1473	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Madison	Hamilton	Eaton Street	1120	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/13/14	5/22/14	6/1/14
Madison	Hubbardsville	Wickwire Road	1228	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/11/14	5/20/14	5/29/14
Madison	Lebanon	Janzten Road	1382	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1295	13	49.1	35.4	27.6	5/13/14	5/23/14	6/2/14
Madison	Madison	Center Road	1328	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/12/14	5/21/14	5/31/14
Madison	Smithfield	Gill Road	1287	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/9/14	5/18/14	5/26/14
Madison	Sullivan	Harsh Road	475	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/4/14	5/11/14	5/18/14
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	855	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/14/14	5/23/14	5/31/14
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetary Road	605	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/14	5/21/14	5/28/14
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	840	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/14	5/21/14	5/28/14
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	690	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/16/14	5/25/14	6/2/14
Montgomery	Minden	Spring Street	625	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Montgomery	Mohawk	Hickory Hill Road	420	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/16/14	5/25/14	6/2/14
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	550	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/14	5/21/14	5/28/14

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Montgomery	St. Johnsville	State Route 5	400	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/14/14	5/23/14	5/31/14
Otsego	Milford	County Road 35	1200	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/19/14	5/28/14	6/7/14
Otsego	New Berlin	County Road 29	1210	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/19/14	5/28/14	6/7/14
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1254	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1060	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/14	5/24/14	6/1/14
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 2	980	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/16/14	5/25/14	6/2/14
Otsego	Cherry Valley	County Route 32A	787	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/14	5/24/14	6/1/14
Otsego	Maryland	Tromp Road	1288	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/16/14	5/25/14	6/2/14
Otsego	Plainfield	County Route 18	1118	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/21/14	5/31/14	6/11/14
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1712	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/21/14	5/31/14	6/11/14
Otsego	Roseboom	State Route 166	1308	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/17/14	5/26/14	6/4/14
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1520	12	48.2	34.5	26.9	5/21/14	5/31/14	6/11/14
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	635	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/14	5/21/14	5/28/14
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	830	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/13/14	5/22/14	5/29/14
Saratoga	Moreau	Burt Road	245	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/14	5/24/14	6/1/14
Saratoga	Northumberland	West River Road	250	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/13/14	5/22/14	5/29/14
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/11/14	5/18/14	5/25/14
Schoharie	Fulton	Mill Valley Road	1139	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/16/14	5/25/14	6/2/14
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	660	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/13/14	5/22/14	5/29/14
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	627	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/14	5/21/14	5/28/14
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/14	5/21/14	5/28/14
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	19	54.3	40.6	31.8	5/15/14	5/24/14	6/1/14
Schoharie	Wright	Rickard Hill Road	1065	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/13/14	5/21/14	5/28/14

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