

1st Cutting Forage Quality Update

This is Week Three of our 1st cutting forage quality monitoring and last 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.

As of this date all fields in our monitoring program should have been harvested if they were 100% grass and all but nine if they were a 50/50 mix. By next Tuesday all but five fields if they are a 50/50 mix and all but nine if they are 100% legume should be harvested. Given the number of fields that should be harvested in the next week we will end the monitoring program for this year.

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 27, 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	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/19/14	5/26/14	6/2/14
Chenango	Greene	State Route 12	919	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Chenango	Guilford	Ives Settlement Road	1450	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/19/14	5/26/14	6/2/14
Chenango	Linklaen	Linklaen Center Road	1209	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/19/14	5/26/14	6/2/14
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	1030	cut						
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	956	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/17/14	5/24/14	5/31/14
Chenango	Preston	Griffin Road	1450	15	50.8	37.1	29.0	5/26/14	6/4/14	6/14/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Bingham Rd	1089	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1092	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1330	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/21/14	5/30/14	6/7/14
Chenango	Sherburne	Furman Mills Road	1245	cut						
Chenango	Sherburne	Schmidt Road	1540	17	52.6	38.8	30.4	5/24/14	6/2/14	6/11/14
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1067	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/14/14	5/21/14	5/26/14
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1200	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Chenango	Sherburne	West Hill Rd	1326	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/17/14	5/24/14	5/31/14
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1085	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/14/14	5/21/14	5/26/14
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1089	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/17/14	5/24/14	5/31/14
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	675	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/14/14	5/20/14	5/25/14
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	30	63.8	50.1	39.5	5/13/14	5/19/14	5/24/14
Fulton	Oppenheim	Youkers Bush Road	845	30	63.8	50.1	39.5	5/13/14	5/19/14	5/24/14
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/19/14	5/26/14	6/2/14
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	821	cut						
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Herkimer	Norway	Elm Tree Road	1123	14	50.0	36.3	28.3	5/27/14	6/5/14	6/15/14
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	716	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/14/14	5/21/14	5/26/14
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	21	56.0	42.3	33.2	5/20/14	5/29/14	6/5/14
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1195	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Madison	Cazenovia	East Road	1419	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/17/14	5/24/14	5/31/14
Madison	DeRuyter	Quacker Basin Road	1351	cut						

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Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 27, 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
Madison	Earlville	Borden Road	1133	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Madison	Earlville	Excell Road	1296	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1473	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Madison	Hamilton	Eaton Street	1120	20	55.2	41.4	32.5	5/21/14	5/30/14	6/7/14
Madison	Hubbardsville	Wickwire Road	1228	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/19/14	5/26/14	6/2/14
Madison	Lebanon	Janzten Road	1382	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1295	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/17/14	5/24/14	5/31/14
Madison	Madison	Center Road	1328	22	56.9	43.2	33.9	5/20/14	5/28/14	6/4/14
Madison	Smithfield	Gill Road	1287	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/14/14	5/20/14	5/25/14
Madison	Stockbridge	Strip Road	1569	cut						
Madison	Sullivan	Harsh Road	475	32	65.5	51.8	40.9	5/11/14	5/17/14	5/21/14
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	855	30	63.8	50.1	39.5	5/13/14	5/19/14	5/24/14
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetary Road	605	30	63.8	50.1	39.5	5/13/14	5/19/14	5/24/14
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	840	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/15/14	5/22/14	5/28/14
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	690	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Montgomery	Minden	Spring Street	625	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Montgomery	Mohawk	Hickory Hill Road	420	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygert Road	550	cut						
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	State Route 5	400	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/14/14	5/21/14	5/26/14
Otsego	Milford	County Road 35	1200	23	57.7	44.0	34.6	5/19/14	5/26/14	6/2/14
Otsego	New Berlin	County Road 29	1210	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1254	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1060	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Otsego	Unadilla	State Route 8	980	27	61.2	47.5	37.4	5/15/14	5/22/14	5/28/14
Otsego	Cherry Valley	County Route 32A	787	24	58.6	44.9	35.3	5/18/14	5/25/14	6/1/14
Otsego	Maryland	Tromp Road	1288	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/17/14	5/24/14	5/31/14
Otsego	Plainfield	County Route 18	1118	26	60.3	46.6	36.7	5/16/14	5/23/14	5/29/14
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1712	18	53.4	39.7	31.1	5/23/14	6/1/14	6/9/14
Otsego	Roseboom	State Route 166	1308	25	59.5	45.8	36.0	5/17/14	5/24/14	5/31/14

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Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1520	16	51.7	38.0	29.7	5/25/14	6/3/14	6/12/14
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	635	30	63.8	50.1	39.5	5/13/14	5/19/14	5/24/14
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	830	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/14/14	5/20/14	5/25/14
Saratoga	Moreau	Burt Road	245	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/14/14	5/21/14	5/26/14
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	28	62.1	48.3	38.1	5/14/14	5/21/14	5/26/14
Schoharie	Wright	Rickard Hill Road	1065	29	62.9	49.2	38.8	5/14/14	5/20/14	5/25/14

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