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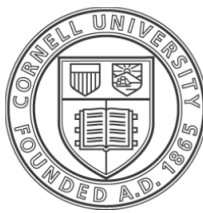
Of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer,
Montgomery, Otsego,
Saratoga and Schoharie Counties
and the
Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team

First Cutting Forage Quality Summary for May 3, 2016

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First Cutting Forage Quality Summary for May 3, 2016



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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.

It is always hard to know when to start this process and this year finds many alfalfa fields too short to make predictions from. We need alfalfa 10 inches tall to predict grass NDF and 65% of the fields are less than 10 inches. However those field that are 10 inches or greater would indicate nearby grass stands would need to be cut within the week. Let's note that weather forecasts for the next week call for daytime temperatures to not get above 70 degrees so we would not expect grass NDF to increase more than 1 point per day and maybe even less than 1 point. So if you have pure grass stands and you are in the neighborhood of some of the alfalfa we are measuring 11-13 inches tall likely you need to get out and look at your own fields and plan on being ready to cut by the weekend. Wet ground and weather may keep you off the fields but good to recognize you may need to be ready to go first chance you get.

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Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 3, 2016

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	Bainbridge	Robinson Road	1660	6	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	950	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Sherburne	Cush Hill Rd	1242	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Sherburne	Schmidt Rd	1550	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1050	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1080	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	633	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Danube	Cramer Road	580	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Norway	State Route 170A	1207	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	466	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	890	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Road	580	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	860	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/6/16	5/15/16	5/26/16
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	653	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	417	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/6/16	5/15/16	5/26/16
Montgomery	Minden	Schuyler Road	610	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Montgomery	Mohawk	Hickory Hill Road	470	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/5/16	5/14/16	5/25/16
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	584	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Montgomery	Palatine	State Route 5	329	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Crum Creek Road	668	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 3, 2016, *continued...*

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
Otsego	Cherry Valley	Dugway Road	796	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Maryland	Muehl Road	1320	6	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Morris	State Route 51	1126	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1255	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1070	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Otsego	Otsego	Phoenix Mills Crossing Road	1257	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Pittsfield	Burdick Rd	1136	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Otsego	Plainfield	County Road 18	1212	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1713	5	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1638	6	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 1	1058	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	643	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	833	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Saratoga	Saratoga	Southard Rd	227	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16
Saratoga	Schuylerville	927 County Route 32	217	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/6/16	5/15/16	5/26/16
Saratoga	Schuylerville	Schulerville Road	78	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Saratoga	Schuylerville	West River Road	170	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Saratoga	Stillwater	Burke Road	382	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/6/16	5/15/16	5/26/16
Schoharie	Fulton	State Route 30	630	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/4/16	5/13/16	5/23/16
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Schoharie	Seward	Bush Street	1181	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Schoharie	Wright	Rickard Hill Road	1065	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/7/16	5/17/16	5/28/16