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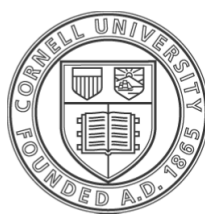
Of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer,
Montgomery, Otsego,
Saratoga and Schoharie Counties
and the
Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team

First Cutting Forage Quality Summary for May 24, 2016

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First Cutting Forage Quality Summary for May 24, 2016



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This is the last of our 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.

Growth has certainly been behind this year and that has thrown off the prediction equations to some degree. Alfalfa has appeared stunted compared to grass growth. Shorter alfalfa in alfalfa-grass mixes may mean that grass is making up more of the mix so better to harvest on the early side as you have less high quality alfalfa making up for the higher percentage of lower quality grass. You maybe sacrificing some yield but higher quality should win out.

All the predicted dates to cut have been modified to reflect the faster growth anticipated with the warmer 85-90 F temperatures expected for the coming week. For the most part the grass and mixed stands may only reflect a day or so sooner because the predicted harvest date is so close by. But the warmer temperatures are likely to move up the alfalfa predicted harvest dates up approximately three days.

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Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 24, 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	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/23/16	5/30/16	6/4/16
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	950	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/17/16	5/25/16	5/30/16
Chenango	Sherburne	Cush Hill Road	1242	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/23/16	5/30/16	6/4/16
Chenango	Sherburne	Schmidt Road	1550	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/24/16	5/30/16	6/5/16
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1050	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/16	5/26/16	5/31/16
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1080	Cut						
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	633	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/17/16	5/26/16	5/30/16
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/13/16	5/21/16	5/26/16
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/20/16	5/28/16	6/2/16
Herkimer	Danube	Tibbits Road	580	Cut						
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/19/16	5/27/16	6/1/16
Herkimer	Norway	State Route 170A	1207	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/19/16	5/27/16	6/1/16
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	466	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/16	5/23/16	5/27/16
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	890	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/27/16
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Road	580	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/27/16
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	860	28	61.2	48.3	38.1	5/10/16	5/18/16	5/23/16
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	653	23	56.9	44.0	34.6	5/15/16	5/23/16	5/28/16
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	417	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/16	5/20/16	5/25/16
Montgomery	Minden	Schuyler Road	610	Cut						
Montgomery	Mohawk	Hickory Hill Road	470	Cut						
Montgomery	Mohawk	Old Trail Road	570	29	62.1	49.2	38.8	5/9/16	5/17/16	5/22/16
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	584	Cut						
Montgomery	Palatine	State Route 5	329	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/16	5/20/16	5/25/16
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Crum Creek Road	668	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/27/16

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 24, 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	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/16	5/23/16	5/27/16
Otsego	Maryland	Muehl Road	1320	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/21/16	5/29/16	6/3/16
Otsego	Morris	State Route 51	1126	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/19/16	5/27/16	6/1/16
Otsego	New Lisbon	NY State Highway 51	1255	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/16	5/26/16	5/31/16
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1070	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/16	5/26/16	5/31/16
Otsego	Otsego	Phoenix Mills Cross Road	1257	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/19/16	5/27/16	6/1/16
Otsego	Pittsfield	Burdick Road	1136	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/17/16	5/25/16	5/30/16
Otsego	Plainfield	County Highway 18	1212	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/16	5/26/16	5/31/16
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1713	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/23/16	5/30/16	6/4/16
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1638	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/23/16	5/30/16	6/4/16
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 1	1058	Cut						
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	643	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/11/16	5/19/16	5/24/16
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	833	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/16	5/26/16	5/31/16
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	Cut						
Saratoga	Saratoga	Southard Rd	227	Cut						
Saratoga	Schuylerville	927 County Route 32	217	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/13/16	5/22/16	5/26/16
Saratoga	Schuylerville	Schulerville Road	78	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/16	5/23/16	5/27/16
Saratoga	Schuylerville	West River Road	170	Cut						
Saratoga	Stillwater	Burke Road	382	Cut						
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	Cut						
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	Cut						
Schoharie	Schoharie	State Route 30	687	Cut						
Schoharie	Wright	Rickard Hill Road	1065	23	56.9	44.0	34.6	5/15/16	5/23/16	5/28/16