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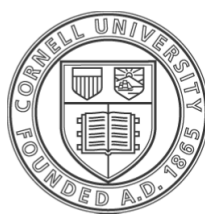
Of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer,
Montgomery, Otsego,
Saratoga and Schoharie Counties
and the
Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team

First Cutting Forage Quality Summary for May 17, 2016

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County
5657 State Route 5
Herkimer, NY 13350

First Cutting Forage Quality Summary for May 17, 2016



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This is the third week of monitoring of 1st cutting quality for 2016. 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.

Maturity is progressing but not very fast and definitely behind last year. In 2015 the average alfalfa height for May 19 was 24 inches and this year for May 17 the average alfalfa height is 16 inches. Temps for the next week don't look to be high so we would expect average growth.

Given alfalfa heights and average temperatures we would expect most all grass fields should begin to be cut by Saturday May 20 and many 50/50 mix fields could be cut in the next week. As always these are guidelines to get you looking at your fields.

Next summary will be out Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

Kevin H. Ganoë, MS, CCA
Area Field Crop Specialist
Phone: 315-866-7920 Ext: 230
E-mail: khg2@cornell.edu

David R. Balbian, MS, PAS
Area Dairy Management Specialist
Phone: 1-518-312-3592
E-mail: drb23@cornell.edu

Mark Schmidt
Project Technician
Nitrogen Management
Phone: 607-674-6025
Email: mschmidt@citlink.net

Kirk J. Shoen
Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Saratoga County
Farm Business Management,
Dairy & Field Crops Educator
Phone: 518-885-8995
Email: kjs264@cornell.edu

William R. Gibson
Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Otsego County
Program Assistant
Phone: 607-547-2536 Ext:226
E-mail: wrg56@cornell.edu

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 17, 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	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/19/16	5/28/16	6/8/16
Chenango	Oxford	County Road 32	950	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/16/16	5/24/16	6/2/16
Chenango	Sherburne	Cush Hill Rd	1242	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/18/16	5/27/16	6/6/16
Chenango	Sherburne	Schmidt Rd	1550	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/18/16	5/27/16	6/6/16
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1050	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/16/16	5/24/16	6/2/16
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1080	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/17/16	5/26/16	6/5/16
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	633	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/15/16	5/23/16	6/1/16
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/13/16	5/21/16	5/29/16
Herkimer	Columbia	Jordanville Road	1586	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/18/16	5/27/16	6/6/16
Herkimer	Danube	Tibbits Road	580	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/17/16	5/25/16	6/4/16
Herkimer	German Flatts	Robinson Road	1372	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/18/16	5/27/16	6/6/16
Herkimer	Norway	State Route 170A	1207	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/18/16	5/27/16	6/6/16
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	466	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/15/16	5/23/16	6/1/16
Herkimer	Winfield	North Winfield Road	1243	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/18/16	5/27/16	6/6/16
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	890	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Road	580	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	860	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/11/16	5/19/16	5/26/16
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	653	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	417	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/12/16	5/20/16	5/28/16
Montgomery	Minden	Schuyler Road	610	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/15/16	5/23/16	6/1/16
Montgomery	Mohawk	Hickory Hill Road	470	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/13/16	5/21/16	5/29/16
Montgomery	Mohawk	Old Trail Road	570	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/11/16	5/19/16	5/26/16
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	584	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/15/16	5/23/16	6/1/16
Montgomery	Palatine	State Route 5	329	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Crum Creek Road	668	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/15/16	5/23/16	6/1/16

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 17, 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	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/12/16	5/20/16	5/28/16
Otsego	Maryland	Muehl Road	1320	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/17/16	5/25/16	6/4/16
Otsego	Morris	State Route 51	1126	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/17/16	5/25/16	6/4/16
Otsego	New Lisbon	NY State Highway 51	1255	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/17/16	5/25/16	6/4/16
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1070	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/16/16	5/24/16	6/2/16
Otsego	Otego	Phoenix Mills Cross Road	1257	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/18/16	5/27/16	6/6/16
Otsego	Pittsfield	Burdick Rd	1136	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/17/16	5/25/16	6/4/16
Otsego	Plainfield	County Highway 18	1212	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/17/16	5/25/16	6/4/16
Otsego	Richfield	Jordan Road	1713	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/20/16	5/29/16	6/9/16
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1638	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/20/16	5/29/16	6/9/16
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 1	1058	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/16/16	5/24/16	6/2/16
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	643	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/13/16	5/21/16	5/29/16
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	833	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/17/16	5/25/16	6/4/16
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 68	225	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/11/16	5/19/16	5/26/16
Saratoga	Saratoga	Southard Rd	227	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/13/16	5/21/16	5/29/16
Saratoga	Schuylerville	927 County Route 32	217	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/11/16	5/19/16	5/26/16
Saratoga	Schuylerville	Schulerville Road	78	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Saratoga	Schuylerville	West River Road	170	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/15/16	5/23/16	6/1/16
Saratoga	Stillwater	Burke Road	382	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	631	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	953	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Schoharie	Schoharie	State Route 30	687	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/14/16	5/22/16	5/30/16
Schoharie	Seward	Bush Street	1181	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/16/16	5/24/16	6/2/16
Schoharie	Wright	Rickard Hill Road	1065	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/13/16	5/21/16	5/29/16