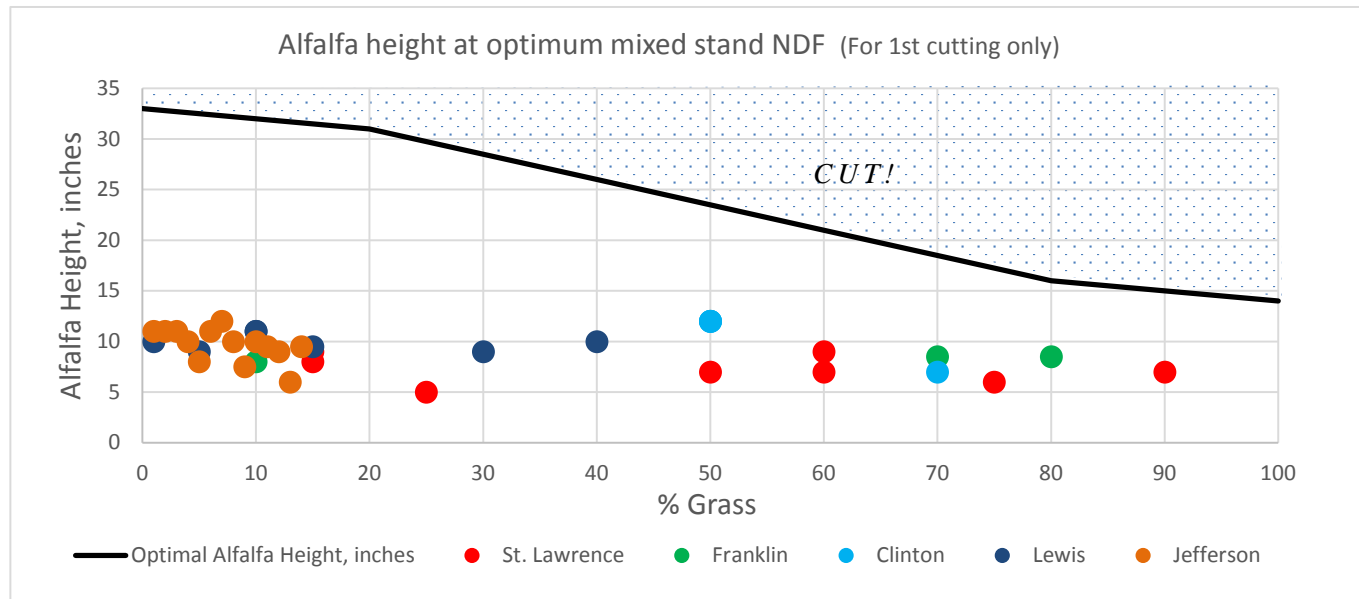


2017 North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa Quality Monitor



May 2, 2017 REPORT

Check your fields!

Notice the differences among these monitored fields.

It is important to get out and measure alfalfa heights in your own fields to help judge rate of growth and maturity for best timing of 1st cutting.

Field Background

Refer to table on page 2 for detailed information on each site.

Points on the graph with 0" alfalfa height have been mowed.

The North Country 1st Cutting Forage Quality Monitoring Program is made possible by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Data collection by Ron Kuck, Alyssa Couse, Melissa Spence, Joe Lawrence, Harry Fefee, Sara Bull, Eric Bever, Jonathan Kraus, Bill Bullock and Kitty O'Neil.

Goal % NDF

NDF (Neutral Detergent Fiber) content is the best predictor of forage quality for lactating dairy cows. NDF content of standing first cutting alfalfa and grasses is easily predicted by alfalfa height. The relationship between NDF content in an alfalfa-grass mix and alfalfa height only works for first cutting. Second and 3rd cuttings should simply be taken according to the calendar - at 28 to 35 day intervals.

100% Grass - Goal NDF (on a dry matter basis) is 50% (target range 48-55). Tallest alfalfa height will be 14-16 inches.

100% Alfalfa - Goal NDF is 40% (target range 39-43). Tallest alfalfa height will be 28-30 inches.

Mixed stand - for a 50:50 alfalfa:grass stand, the goal NDF is 43%. Tallest alfalfa height will be 22-23 inches.

Begin harvest early enough so that most of your crop is harvested within the "ideal" range. Typically NDF increases about 0.5 to 0.7/day for alfalfa and about 0.8 to 1.2/day for grass. Expect the lower end of that range in cooler weather and the higher end in warm.

Weekly Observations

Alfalfa and grass have both grown quickly over the past couple of weeks, but growth is likely to slow down during the coming week due to low forecasted temperatures. First week of May heights are taller in the Jefferson-Lewis fields and shorter in the northern counties. Heights averaged 6.2" across all 6 counties this week in 2016, while they average 9" this year. Many fields had standing water this week from heavy rains from April 30 to May 2.

Monitor winter cereals closely for optimal harvest at about the boot stage.

2017 North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa Quality Monitor

County	Town/Field	Elevation (feet)	Soil Type	% Grass	Grass Species	Alfalfa Height, inches				
						2-May	9-May	16-May	23-May	30-May
St. Lawrence	DeKalb	450'	Heuvelton	60	Perennial Ryegrass	9				
St. Lawrence	Depeyster	364'	Kalurah	90	Timothy	7				
St. Lawrence	Depeyster	340'	Adjidaumo	50	Reed Canarygrass	7				
St. Lawrence	Hopkinton	710'	Pyrites	25	Perennial Ryegrass	5				
St. Lawrence	Madrid	340'	Hogansburg	15	Reed Canarygrass	9				
St. Lawrence	Parishville	750'	Roundabout	15		8				
St. Lawrence	Stockholm	560'	Coveytown	75	Reed Canarygrass	6				
St. Lawrence	Waddington	260'	Croghan	60		7				
Franklin	Bangor	760'	Moira	70		8.5				
Franklin	Moira	450'	Croghan	10	Perennial Ryegrass	8				
Franklin	Moira	460'	Rhinebeck	80		8.5				
Clinton	Mooers	225'	Hailesboro	70		7				
Clinton	Plattsburgh	375'	Hailesboro	50		12				
Clinton	Peru	420'	Appleton	50	Reed Canarygrass	12				
Clinton	Peru	480'	Hogansburg	50	Reed Canarygrass	12				
Lewis	Leyden	1254	Nellis	40	Orchardgrass	10				
Lewis	Turin	840	Kars	10	Orchardgrass	11				
Lewis	Martinsburg1	1095	Herkimer	10	Tall Fescue	11				
Lewis	Martinsburg2	1255	Herkimer	5	Reed Canarygrass	9				
Lewis	Lowville	733	Duane	1	-	10				
Lewis	Denmark1	1010	Plainfield	30	Reed Canarygrass	9				
Lewis	Denmark2	915	Nellis	15	Tall Fescue	9.5				
Jefferson	Ellisburg E	440	Madrid	10	TBA	11				
Jefferson	Ellisburg W	330	Collamer	10	TBA	11				
Jefferson	Ellisburg N	420	Galway	10	TBA	11				
Jefferson	Henderson	260	Rhinebeck	50	TBA	10				
Jefferson	Hounsfield W	276	Niagara	50	TBA	8				
Jefferson	Hounsfield N	482	Galway	10	TBA	11				
Jefferson	Adams	350	Collamer	50	TBA	12				
Jefferson	Carthage	710	Elmridge	5	TBA	10				
Jefferson	Clayton	253	Rhinebeck	TBD	TBA	7.5				
Jefferson	Evans Mills	470	Farmington	50	TBA	10				
Jefferson	Evans Mills	470	Farmington	10	TBA	9.5				
Jefferson	Evans Mills N	400	Covington	20	TBA	9				
Jefferson	Philidelphia	520	Rhinebeck	10	TBA	6				
Jefferson	Watertown	510	Collamer	40	TBA	9.5				