



## 1<sup>st</sup> Cutting Forage Quality Update

We have begun monitoring of 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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.

**For May 9 growth has slowed considerably given the cold temperatures of the past week. On average alfalfa only gained 3 inches, which given the delay in field work due to cold rainy weather, is a good thing. There may be opportunities to harvest for quality given current weather predictions for the next two weeks. Start a list prioritizing which of your fields have a chance for highest quality and those that are past prime or are likely to be too wet to harvest without rutting up fields or worse.**

**At some of our locations fields are past for grass harvest and are at or approaching time for alfalfa grass mixes to be harvested. Check your fields so you know what stage your haycrop is in.**

**Next report will be May 16.**

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 9, 2017

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	Ives Settlement Road	1457	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/9/17	5/18/17	5/28/17
Chenango	Greene	County Road 32	950	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/5/17	5/13/17	5/21/17
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1350	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/11/17	5/20/17	5/31/17
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1190	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/8/17	5/16/17	5/25/17
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1080	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1150	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/8/17	5/16/17	5/25/17
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	633	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Herkimer	Colombia	Osley Road	1510	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/10/17	5/19/17	5/29/17
Herkimer	Danube	Bellinger Road	692	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Danube	Tibbits Road	580	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/5/17	5/13/17	5/21/17
Herkimer	Danube	Travis Road	1301	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Fairfield	Hardscrabble Road	1308	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	German Flatts	Kidney Road	389	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Herkimer	Mohawk	Kingdom Road	1598	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Mohawk	Manning Road.	1638	6	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Norway	State Route 170A	1207	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/13/17	5/23/17	6/3/17
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	466	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Herkimer	Stark	Jordanville Road	1420	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1546	8	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1555	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/11/17	5/20/17	5/31/17
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	890	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/5/17	5/13/17	5/21/17
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Road	580	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/9/17	5/17/17	5/27/17

*First Cutting Project is being conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, Saratoga and Schoharie Counties and the Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team*

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Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	830	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Montgomery	Glen	State Route 5S	290	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	653	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/8/17	5/16/17	5/25/17
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	417	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Montgomery	Minden	State Route 80	610	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/4/17	5/12/17	5/20/17
Montgomery	Mohawk	Stoners Trail Road	570	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Montgomery	Mohawk	Van Epps Road	470	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	584	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Crum Creek Road	668	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Otsego	Cherry Valley	Dugway Road	796	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/5/17	5/13/17	5/21/17
Otsego	Maryland	Muehl Road	1320	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/9/17	5/17/17	5/27/17
Otsego	Morris	State Route 51	1126	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/9/17	5/17/17	5/27/17
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1255	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1070	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/5/17	5/13/17	5/21/17
Otsego	Otsego	County Road 33	1238	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/8/17	5/16/17	5/25/17
Otsego	Pittsfield	Burdick Road	1136	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Otsego	Plainfield	County Road 18	1212	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/9/17	5/17/17	5/27/17
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1638	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/12/17	5/21/17	6/1/17
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 1	1058	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/7/17	5/15/17	5/24/17
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	643	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/3/17	5/11/17	5/18/17
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	833	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/9/17	5/18/17	5/28/17
Saratoga	Northumberland	Callahan Road	282	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/3/17	5/11/17	5/18/17
Saratoga	Northumberland	State Route 32	268	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/2/17	5/10/17	5/17/17

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Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 67	362	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/6/17	5/14/17	5/22/17
Saratoga	Saratoga	Southard Road	320	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/2/17	5/10/17	5/17/17
Saratoga	Stillwater	State Route 423	475	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/4/17	5/12/17	5/20/17
Schoharie	Middleburgh	State Route 30	610	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/2/17	5/10/17	5/17/17
Schoharie	Middleburgh	State Route 30	635	23	56.9	44.0	34.6	5/2/17	5/8/17	5/15/17
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	925	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/3/17	5/11/17	5/18/17
Schoharie	Seward	Bush Street	1150	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/9/17	5/18/17	5/28/17
Schoharie	Wright	Abram's Road	1050	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/4/17	5/12/17	5/20/17

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