



1st Cutting Forage Quality Update

This is our fourth and final week of monitoring of 1st cutting quality for 2017. 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 23, thirty three percent of all sites have been harvested. Alfalfa gained 4 more inches over the past week, now averaging 24.6 inches tall over all remaining uncut sites. Seventy two percent of the uncut fields were 22 inches or taller indicating mixed stands should be cut at those sites. Sixteen or 44% of the uncut fields were greater than 27-28 inches tall which means pure alfalfa stands at those sites should be cut within the next day or two.

All of our sites are past their predicted date for all grass harvest and with the exception of few higher elevation fields should not be cut for dairy quality feed as they are past prime.

Check your fields so you know the stage of your haycrop. This is the last report for 2017.

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 23, 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	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/17	5/26/17	6/3/17
Chenango	Greene	County Road 32	950	28	61.2	48.3	38.1	5/11/17	5/17/17	5/22/17
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1350	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/22/17	5/30/17	6/8/17
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 80	1190	Cut						
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 14	1080	Cut						
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1150	23	56.9	44.0	34.6	5/16/17	5/22/17	5/29/17
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	633	28	61.2	48.3	38.1	5/11/17	5/17/17	5/22/17
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/12/17	5/18/17	5/24/17
Herkimer	Colombia	Osley Road	1510	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/15/17	5/21/17	5/28/17
Herkimer	Danube	Bellinger Road	692	Cut						
Herkimer	Danube	Tibbits Road	580	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/14/17	5/20/17	5/27/17
Herkimer	Danube	Travis Road	1301	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/21/17	5/29/17	6/7/17
Herkimer	Fairfield	Hardscrabble Road	1308	Cut						
Herkimer	German Flatts	Kidney Road	389	28	61.2	48.3	38.1	5/11/17	5/17/17	5/22/17
Herkimer	Mohawk	Kingdom Road	1598	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/21/17	5/29/17	6/7/17
Herkimer	Mohawk	Manning Road.	1638	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/22/17	5/30/17	6/8/17
Herkimer	Salisbury	State Route 170A	1207	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/20/17	5/28/17	6/5/17
Herkimer	Schulyer	Carder Lane	466	28	61.2	48.3	38.1	5/11/17	5/17/17	5/22/17
Herkimer	Stark	Jordanville Road	1420	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/20/17	5/28/17	6/5/17
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1546	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/16/17	5/24/17	5/31/17
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1555	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/17	5/26/17	6/3/17
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	890	28	61.2	48.3	38.1	5/11/17	5/17/17	5/22/17
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Road	580	Cut						

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Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	830	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/13/17	5/19/17	5/25/17
Montgomery	Glen	State Route 5S	290	Cut						
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	653	Cut						
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	417	32	64.6	51.8	40.9	5/8/17	5/13/17	5/17/17
Montgomery	Minden	State Route 80	610	32	64.6	51.8	40.9	5/8/17	5/13/17	5/17/17
Montgomery	Mohawk	Stoners Trail Road	570	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/12/17	5/18/17	5/24/17
Montgomery	Mohawk	Van Epps Road	470	Cut						
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	584	Cut						
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Crum Creek Road	668	31	63.8	50.9	40.2	5/9/17	5/14/17	5/18/17
Otsego	Cherry Valley	Dugway Road	796	31	63.8	50.9	40.2	5/9/17	5/14/17	5/18/17
Otsego	Maryland	Muehl Road	1320	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/16/17	5/24/17	5/31/17
Otsego	Morris	State Route 51	1126	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/15/17	5/21/17	5/28/17
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1255	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/12/17	5/18/17	5/24/17
Otsego	Otego	State Route 7	1070	Cut						
Otsego	Otsego	County Road 33	1238	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/14/17	5/20/17	5/27/17
Otsego	Pittsfield	Burdick Rd	1136	Cut						
Otsego	Plainfield	County Road 18	1212	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/15/17	5/21/17	5/28/17
Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1638	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/19/17	5/27/17	6/4/17
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 1	1058	Cut						
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	643	29	62.1	49.2	38.8	5/10/17	5/16/17	5/21/17
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	833	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/15/17	5/21/17	5/28/17
Saratoga	Northumberland	Callahan Road	282	Cut						
Saratoga	Northumberland	State Route 32	268	33	65.5	52.7	41.6	5/7/17	5/12/17	5/15/17

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Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 67	362	Cut						
Saratoga	Saratoga	Southard Road	320	Cut						
Saratoga	Stillwater	State Route 423	475	Cut						
Schoharie	Middleburgh	State Route 30	610	Cut						
Schoharie	Middleburgh	State Route 30	635	Cut						
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	925	29	62.1	49.2	38.8	5/10/17	5/16/17	5/21/17
Schoharie	Seward	Bush Street	1150	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/18/17	5/26/17	6/3/17
Schoharie	Wright	Abram's Road	1050	29	62.1	49.2	38.8	5/10/17	5/16/17	5/21/17

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