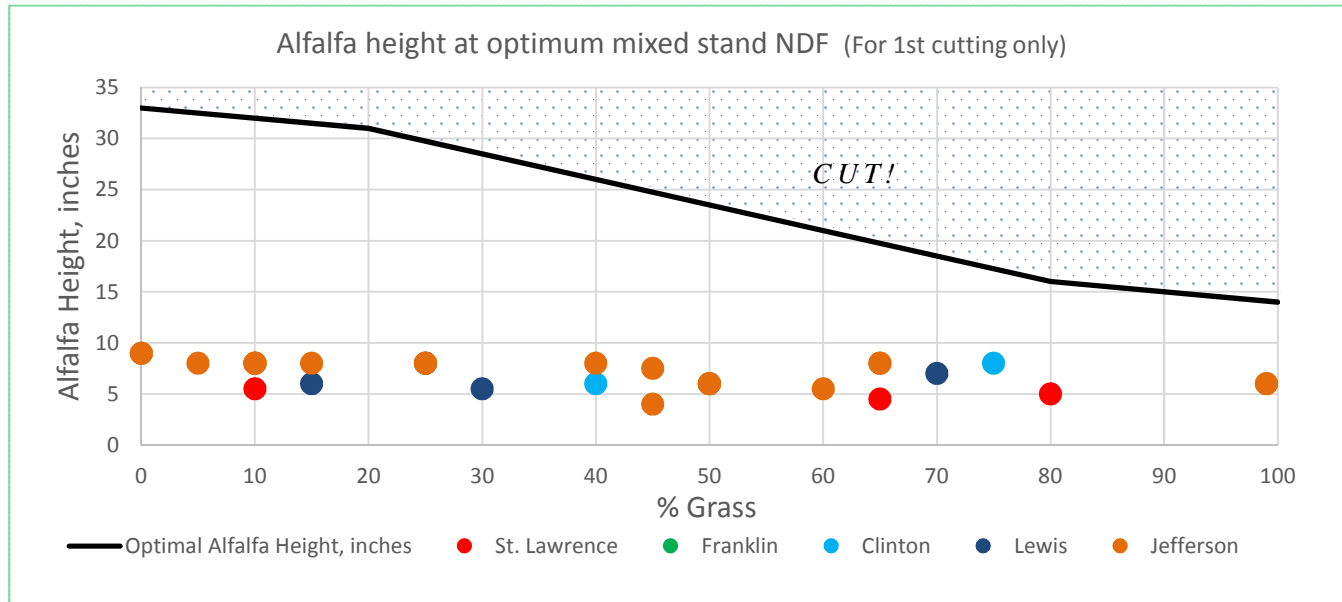


2018 North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa Quality Monitor



May 7, 2018 REPORT

Check individual 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.

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, Jessica Prosper, Sara Bull, Eric Bever, 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 Tips and Observations

- Alfalfa is awake and has begun to grow a bit with the warmer temperatures this past week. Grasses have made good progress over the past week or 10 days as well. For many areas across NNY, the lower-than-normal April temperatures resulted in only a few GDD - roughly a third of normal. To date, May has brought more typical warming weather.
- It's a bit late to fertilize grass hay fields with N for first cutting, but some of the later fields to green up will still respond to some. Fertilize with N for 2nd cutting immediately after 1st cutting.
- Alfalfa snout beetle adults have begun to emerge and walk to new destinations. They prefer to walk N/NE/NW and will walk a long way to find a suitable host plant on which to feed and lay eggs. No insecticide is effective against ASB but a pair of biocontrol nematodes work quite well.
- More fields will be added to this report next week.

2018 North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa Quality Monitor

County	Town/Field	Elevation		Soil Type	% Grass	Grass Species	Alfalfa Height, inches					
		(feet)					7-May	14-May	21-May	28-May	4-Jun	11-Jun
St. Lawrence	Depeyster	340'		Adjidaumo	10		5.5					
St. Lawrence	DeKalb	0		0	65		4.5					
St. Lawrence	Hermon	0		0	80		5					
St. Lawrence		0	0	0								
St. Lawrence		0	0	0								
St. Lawrence		0	0	0								
St. Lawrence		0	0	0								
St. Lawrence		0	0	0								
Franklin		0	0	0								
Franklin		0	0	0								
Franklin		0	0	0								
Clinton	Moers	225'		Hailesboro	40		6					
Clinton	Beekmantown	375'		Hailesboro	75		8					
Clinton		0	0	0								
Clinton		0	0	0								
Lewis	Leyden	1254		Nellis	50	Orchardgrass	6					
Lewis	Turin	840		Dunkirk	25	Tall Fescue	8					
Lewis	Martinsburg1	1080		Galway	70	Tall Fescue	7					
Lewis	Denmark1	900		Nellis	30	Reed Canarygrass	5.5					
Lewis	Denmark2	954		Nellis	15	Tall Fescue	6					
Lewis		0	0	0								
Lewis		0	0	0								
Jefferson	Ellisburg	440		Madrid	50		6					
Jefferson	Ellisburg	330		Collamer	25		8					
Jefferson	Ellisburg	420		Collamer	10		8					
Jefferson	Hounsfield	276		Benson	65		8					
Jefferson	Hounsfield	276		Niagara	99		6					
Jefferson	Hounsfield	482		Galway	10		8					
Jefferson	Rodman	550		Galway	0		9					
Jefferson	Ellisburg	440		Madrid	50		6					
Jefferson	Ellisburg	330		Collamer	25		8					
Jefferson	Ellisburg	420		Collamer	10		8					
Jefferson	Hounsfield	276		Benson	65		8					
Jefferson	Hounsfield	276		Niagara	99		6					
Jefferson	Hounsfield	482		Galway	10		8					
Jefferson	Rodman	550		Galway	0		9					
Jefferson	Carthage	700		Elmridge	5		8					