

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cutting Forage Quality Update **Cornell Cooperative Extension** | Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

This is week two of monitoring of 1<sup>st</sup> cutting for quality for 2018. 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:

Begin cutting 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. Always check your fields to verify your heights and conditions!

**Alfalfa height increased considerably since last week averaging 15 inches tall compared to 9 inches on May 8.**

**As of May 15 we are showing 70 percent of the fields if 100 percent grass should be cut. Of these at least four fields are likely at higher than desired NDF levels which would match with May 8 predictions of needing to begin harvest sometime last week or weekend. Currently two locations are of sufficient alfalfa height that 50/50 mixed stands should be harvested and more will be approaching the desired NDF level before for our next monitoring date. With mixed stands err on the side of assuming more grass than less and harvesting earlier so that you achieve the desired NDF level. Also if you haven't checked your fields since last summer you may find they contain more grass than you expected. It may be time to park the corn planter or soon approaching that point if your fields contain considerable grass.**

**Next report will be May 22.**

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 15, 2018

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	Afton	State Route 41	1060	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Chenango	Bainbridge	East Keech Road	1000	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/11/18	5/19/18	5/27/18
Chenango	Bainbridge	Ives Settlement Road	1457	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Chenango	Earlville	Williams Rd	1069	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Chenango	Greene	County Road 32	950	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1350	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/18/18	5/27/18	6/7/18
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1049	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1150	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/15/18	5/23/18	6/2/18
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	633	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/16/18	5/25/18	6/4/18
Herkimer	Columbia	Rt. 20	1473	9	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Danube	Travis Road	1301	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/19/18	5/29/18	6/9/18
Herkimer	Fairfield	Hardscrabble Road	1308	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/18/18	5/27/18	6/7/18
Herkimer	German Flatts	Kidney Road	389	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Herkimer	Mohawk	Kingdom Road	1598	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/19/18	5/29/18	6/9/18
Herkimer	Mohawk	Manning Road.	1638	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/19/18	5/29/18	6/9/18
Herkimer	Schuyler	Carder lane	458	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Herkimer	Stark	Jordanville Road	1420	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/17/18	5/26/18	6/6/18
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1546	7	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early	Too Early
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1555	11	46.5	33.7	26.2	5/18/18	5/27/18	6/7/18
Herkimer	Winfield	State Route 51	1195	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1180	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/16/18	5/25/18	6/4/18
Madison	Eaton	Eaton Road	1280	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/16/18	5/25/18	6/4/18

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

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Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1460	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1100	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/16/18	5/25/18	6/4/18
Madison	Lincoln	Colgrove Road	1450	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Madison	Nelson	Erieville Road	1440	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Madison	Smithfield	Williams Road	1240	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Madison	Stockbridge	Valley Mills Road	580	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/10/18	5/18/18	5/26/18
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	890	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Road	580	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	830	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Montgomery	Glen	State Route 5S	290	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	653	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/15/18	5/23/18	6/2/18
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	417	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Montgomery	Minden	State Route 80	610	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Montgomery	Mohawk	Stoners Trail Road	570	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/15/18	5/24/18	6/3/18
Montgomery	Mohawk	Van Epps Road	470	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	584	10	45.6	32.8	25.5	5/19/18	5/29/18	6/9/18
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Crum Creek Road	668	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Otsego	Cherry Valley	Dugway Road	796	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Otsego	Maryland	Muehl Road	1320	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/15/18	5/23/18	6/2/18
Otsego	Middlefield	County Road 33	1236	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/15/18	5/23/18	6/2/18
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1255	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Otsego	Pittsfield	County Road 18	1137	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Otsego	Richfield	County Road 24	1532	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/17/18	5/26/18	6/6/18

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Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1638	13	48.2	35.4	27.6	5/16/18	5/25/18	6/4/18
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 1	1058	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	643	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/13/18	5/21/18	5/30/18
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	833	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Saratoga	Northumberland	Callahan Road	282	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/9/18	5/17/18	5/24/18
Saratoga	Northumberland	State Route 32	268	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/8/18	5/16/18	5/23/18
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 67	362	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/12/18	5/20/18	5/28/18
Saratoga	Saratoga	Southard Road	320	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/10/18	5/18/18	5/26/18
Saratoga	Stillwater	State Route 423	475	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/11/18	5/19/18	5/27/18
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Middle-Fort Rd.	625	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/12/18	5/20/18	5/28/18
Schoharie	Middleburgh	State Route 30	635	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/11/18	5/19/18	5/27/18
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	925	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18
Schoharie	Seward	Bush Street	1150	12	47.4	34.5	26.9	5/17/18	5/26/18	6/6/18
Schoharie	Wright	Abrams Road	1050	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/14/18	5/22/18	5/31/18

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