

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

This is our third week and final week 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 faster than normal growth for the alfalfa.

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 sometimes increasing as much as 10 inches in height. Four eastern and lower elevation fields have been cut. NDF predictions at all locations with 100 percent grass and seventy three percent of the 50/50 mixed indicate they should have been cut by now. With the exception of some higher elevation locations many all grass fields are no longer dairy quality and you should move on to higher quality fields.**

**By next Tuesday, May 29, we are predicting over two thirds of all locations, if all alfalfa, should be harvested. Given the warm weather predicted later this week we have built into the equations slightly faster than normal growth for alfalfa in the coming week.**

**This will be our last report for 2018 as we expect a majority of fields to be cut by next Tuesday and the rest by the first weekend in June. Don't forget to get out a yard stick or tape and check your own fields if your alfalfa is later maturing.**

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 22, 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	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/11/18	5/17/18	5/23/18
Chenango	Bainbridge	East Keech Road	1000	31	63.8	50.9	40.2	5/8/18	5/13/18	5/18/18
Chenango	Bainbridge	Ives Settlement Road	1457	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/19/18	5/27/18	6/2/18
Chenango	Earlville	Williams Rd	1069	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/11/18	5/17/18	5/23/18
Chenango	Greene	County Road 32	950	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/13/18	5/19/18	5/25/18
Chenango	Sherburne	County Road 24	1350	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/17/18	5/25/18	5/31/18
Chenango	Sherburne	State Route 12	1049	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/11/18	5/17/18	5/23/18
Chenango	Smyrna	County Road 20	1150	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/18	5/18/18	5/24/18
Fulton	Ephratah	County Road 140	633	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/18	5/18/18	5/23/18
Fulton	Johnstown	State Route 67	765	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/18	5/20/18	5/25/18
Herkimer	Danube	Travis Road	1301	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/17/18	5/25/18	5/31/18
Herkimer	Fairfield	Hardscrabble Road	1308	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/16/18	5/24/18	5/30/18
Herkimer	German Flatts	Kidney Road	389	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/11/18	5/17/18	5/22/18
Herkimer	Mohawk	Kingdom Road	1598	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/20/18	5/28/18	6/3/18
Herkimer	Mohawk	Manning Road	1638	15	50.0	37.1	29.0	5/22/18	5/30/18	6/6/18
Herkimer	Schuyler	Carder lane	458	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/13/18	5/19/18	5/25/18
Herkimer	Stark	Jordanville Road	1420	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/18/18	5/26/18	6/1/18
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1546	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/19/18	5/27/18	6/2/18
Herkimer	Warren	Jordanville Road	1555	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/17/18	5/25/18	5/31/18
Herkimer	Winfield	State Route 51	1195	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/15/18	5/23/18	5/28/18
Madison	Brookfield	State Route 8	1180	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/19/18	5/27/18	6/2/18
Madison	Eaton	Eaton Road	1280	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/18/18	5/26/18	6/1/18
Madison	Fenner	Nelson Road	1460	22	55.6	42.7	33.6	5/16/18	5/23/18	5/29/18

*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*

Summary of Alfalfa Height and Prediction of % NDF - May 22, 2018

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Madison	Lebanon	River Road	1100	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/17/18	5/25/18	5/31/18
Madison	Lincoln	Colgrove Road	1450	14	49.1	36.3	28.3	5/22/18	5/31/18	6/7/18
Madison	Nelson	Erieville Road	1440	20	53.8	41.0	32.2	5/18/18	5/25/18	5/31/18
Madison	Smithfield	Williams Road	1240	19	53.4	40.6	31.8	5/18/18	5/26/18	6/1/18
Madison	Stockbridge	Valley Mills Road	500	26	59.0	46.2	36.4	5/12/18	5/19/18	5/24/18
Montgomery	Canajoharie	Maring Road	890	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/18	5/20/18	5/25/18
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Road	580	23	56.9	44.0	34.6	5/15/18	5/21/18	5/26/18
Montgomery	Florida	Mohr Road	830	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/15/18	5/23/18	5/28/18
Montgomery	Glen	State Route 55	290	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/18	5/18/18	5/23/18
Montgomery	Minden	Airport Road	653	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/17/18	5/25/18	5/29/18
Montgomery	Minden	River Road	417	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/18	5/18/18	5/23/18
Montgomery	Minden	State Route 80	610	21	55.1	42.3	33.2	5/16/18	5/24/18	5/28/18
Montgomery	Mohawk	Stoners Trail Road	570	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/15/18	5/23/18	5/27/18
Montgomery	Mohawk	Van Epps Road	470	27	60.3	47.5	37.4	5/11/18	5/17/18	5/22/18
Montgomery	Palatine	Dygart Road	584	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/18	5/18/18	5/23/18
Montgomery	St. Johnsville	Crum Creek Road	668	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/18	5/20/18	5/25/18
Otsego	Cherry Valley	Dugway Road	796	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/13/18	5/19/18	5/24/18
Otsego	Maryland	Muehl Road	1320	20	54.3	41.4	32.5	5/17/18	5/25/18	5/31/18
Otsego	Middlefield	County Road 33	1236	23	56.9	44.0	34.6	5/15/18	5/21/18	5/27/18
Otsego	New Lisbon	State Route 51	1255	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/13/18	5/19/18	5/25/18
Otsego	Pittsfield	County Road 18	1137	30	62.9	50.1	39.5	5/9/18	5/14/18	5/19/18
Otsego	Richfield	County Road 24	1532	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/19/18	5/27/18	6/2/18
Otsego	Richfield	State Route 20	1473	16	50.8	38.0	29.7	5/21/18	5/29/18	6/4/18

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Otsego	Springfield	Briar Hill Road	1638	17	51.7	38.8	30.4	5/20/18	5/28/18	6/3/18
Otsego	Unadilla	County Road 1	1058	28	61.2	48.3	38.1	5/10/18	5/16/18	5/21/18
Saratoga	Charlton	Jockey Street	643	23	56.9	44.0	34.6	5/15/18	5/21/18	5/27/18
Saratoga	Galway	Crane Road	833	22	56.0	43.2	33.9	5/15/18	5/23/18	5/28/18
Saratoga	Northumberland	Callahan Road	282	Cut						
Saratoga	Northumberland	State Route 32	268	29	62.1	49.2	38.8	5/9/18	5/15/18	5/20/18
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 67	362	Cut						
Saratoga	Saratoga	Southard Road	320	26	59.5	46.6	36.7	5/12/18	5/18/18	5/24/18
Saratoga	Stillwater	State Route 423	475	25	58.6	45.8	36.0	5/13/18	5/19/18	5/25/18
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Middle-Fort Rd.	625	Cut						
Schoharie	Middleburgh	State Route 30	635	Cut						
Schoharie	Richmondville	Warnerville Cutoff	925	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/18	5/20/18	5/26/18
Schoharie	Seward	Bush Street	1150	18	52.6	39.7	31.1	5/19/18	5/27/18	6/2/18
Schoharie	Wright	Abram's Road	1050	24	57.7	44.9	35.3	5/14/18	5/20/18	5/26/18

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