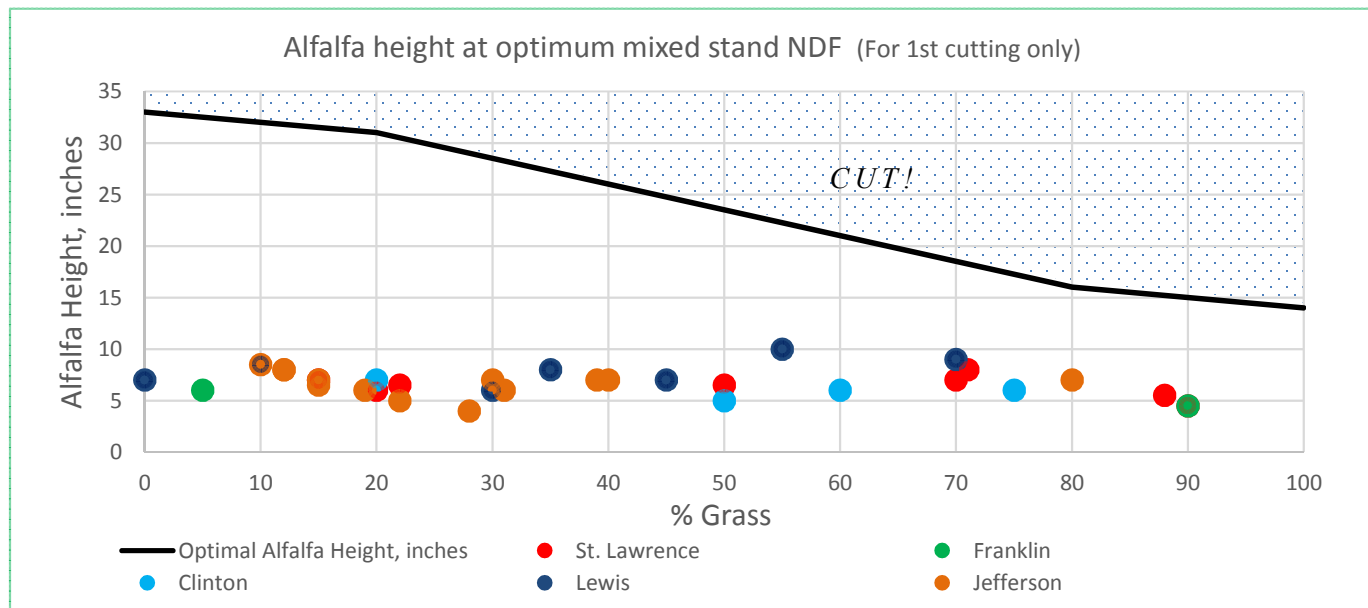


North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa-Grass Quality Monitor

May 7, 2019 REPORT



Check individual fields!

Notice the differences among these monitored fields. (Open circles show previous week's height for comparison.)

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 Alyssa Couse, Jake Ledoux, Melissa Spence, Joe Lawrence, Jessica Prosper, Sara Bull, Jonathan Krauss, 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 growth has been slow with our cool, wet spring weather. Grasses are all vegetative.
- Many fields all across the region have sustained serious winter damage and are complete losses. Both alfalfa and grass have been killed in many fields. Damage appears to be mostly a result of ice sheeting from a series of thaw/freeze cycles in late winter, however some fields were damaged by loss of snow cover. Consider complete reseeding if loss within a field is 30% or greater. It is usually more cost effective to reseed completely than to patch up dead areas when losses are that significant.
- Alfalfa snout beetle adults are beginning to emerge and walk. They do not fly. Report any ASB observations to your local CCE office so we can monitor infested areas.
- Nitrogen should be applied to grass fields (if less than 50% legume and no manure history) by now, or at least within the next couple of days.

North Country 1st Cutting Alfalfa-Grass Quality Monitor

County	Town/Field	Elevation (feet)	Soil		Grass Species	Alfalfa Height, inches						
			Type	% Grass		7-May	14-May	21-May	28-May	4-Jun	11-Jun	18-Jun
St. Lawrence	Depeyster	320	Adjidaumo	71		8						
St. Lawrence	DeKalb	420	Heuvelton	88		5.5						
St. Lawrence	Hermon	509	Wegatchie	90		4.5						
St. Lawrence	Morristown	329	Raquette	22		6.5						
St. Lawrence	Lisbon	371	Hogansburg	70		7						
St. Lawrence	Waddington	302	Hogansburg	15		7						
St. Lawrence	Lawrence	487	Depeyster	50		6.5						
St. Lawrence	Parishville	730	Roundabout	20		6						
Franklin	Moira	475	Brayton	5		6						
Franklin	Malone	1200	Westbury	90		4.5						
Clinton	Mooers	225'	Hailesboro	60		6						
Clinton	Beekmantown	375'	Hailesboro	20		7						
Clinton	AuSable	405'	Appleton	75		6						
Clinton	AuSable	380'	Appleton	50		5						
Lewis	West Turin	1230	Amenia	0		7						
Lewis	Turin	840	Dunkirk	55		10						
Lewis	Martinsburg1	1080	Galway	70		9						
Lewis	Martinsburg2	1255	Herkimer	35		8						
Lewis	Denmark 1	940	Galway/Nellis	45		7						
Lewis	Denmark 2	1005	Nellis	30		6						
Jefferson	Hounsfield	1035	Galway	10		8.5						
Jefferson	Adams	440	Madrid	30		7						
Jefferson	Ellisburg	330	Collamer	15		6.5						
Jefferson	Ellisburg	420	Collamer	31		6						
Jefferson	Rodman	276	Benson	19		6						
Jefferson	Rodman	276	Niagara	12		8						
Jefferson	Rodman	550	Galway	12		8						
Jefferson	Clayton	310	RhineBeck	22		5						
Jefferson	Evans Mills	490	Farmington	15		7						