

2005 Alfalfa Quality Information



Alfalfa Scissor Cutting Project - Goal Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 150

Location	Sample date	PEAQ RFV	ADF	NDF	CP	Scissor cut RFV
Twsp/Wilson	5/31/05	162	27.07	38.47	21.17	164
Sheb. Falls	5/31/05	172	24.25	32.37	20.62	201
Glenbeulah	5/31/05	148	27.68	36.06	17.28	174
Cascade1	5/31/05	150	26.83	37.23	18.45	170
Cascade2	5/31/05	148	--	--	--	--
West Bend	5/31/05	177	23.83	32.14	22.16	204
Hartford	5/31/05	150	28.05	38.05	19.85	164
Newberg	5/31/05	162	25.06	34.24	18.94	188
Fredonia	5/31/05	--	--	--	--	--

Quality reports show alfalfa throughout the tri-county area is ready for harvest. In fact, some fields have already dropped below prime quality. PEAQ measurements are an excellent predictor of forage quality. It is the height of the alfalfa plant that mostly determines forage quality. Don't be misled by the slow bud development. Cooler temperatures have slowed bud development. Scissor cut RFVs and PEAQ RFVs are about 20 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage. On average we lose roughly 3-4 RFV points per day.

Lastly, while you will probably not be making changes to your harvest equipment during 1st cut, think about wider swaths to decrease drying time and increase the forage TDN.

This will be the last quality report this season.

Thanks to our sponsors: Sheboygan County Forage Council, Adell Coop, Kettle Lakes Coop, Rock River Labs, and to Farmers Inc. for samples taken from Washington County. For more information, call Mike Ballweg at (920) 467-5742.

Take time to be safe.

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Location	Sample date	PEAQ RFV	ADF	NDF	CP	Scissor cut RFV
Twsp/Wilson	5/26/05	182	--	--	--	--
Sheb. Falls	5/26/05	196	--	--	--	--
Glenbeulah	5/26/05	164	--	--	--	--
Cascade1	5/26/05	158	--	--	--	--
Cascade2	5/26/05	155	--	--	--	--
West Bend	5/26/05	200	1st Year	Alfalfa Field	--	--
Hartford	5/26/05	170	--	--	--	--
Newberg	5/26/05	180	--	--	--	--
Fredonia	5/26/05	--	--	--	--	--

As the PEAQ RFVs indicate, there has been rapid alfalfa growth and development since Monday, May 23rd. Many fields away from Lake Michigan are now in the bud stage and harvest should start without delay for high quality forage. I will take PEAQ measurements and scissor cut samples again on May 31st.

Take time to be safe.

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Location	Sample date	PEAQ RFV	ADF	NDF	CP	Scissor cut RFV
Twsp/Wilson	5/23/05	215	21.44	29.29	23.60	229
Sheb. Falls	5/23/05	210	19.54	27.10	24.31	253(?)
Glenbeulah	5/23/05	185	24.40	33.92	21.63	192
Cascade1	5/23/05	187	19.43	28.08	26.99	244(?)
Cascade2	5/23/05	175	--	--	--	--
West Bend	5/23/05	220	21.22	28.44	25.58	237
Hartford	5/23/05	190	23.55	31.80	20.88	206
Newberg	5/23/05	200	21.27	29.13	23.28	231(?)
Fredonia	5/23/05	220	--	--	--	--

In areas away from Lake Michigan, harvest should begin around Memorial Day Weekend for high quality dairy forage. Fields sampled are 2nd production year alfalfa fields with the exception of the West Bend site. Scissor cut RFVs are running high - I feel the PEAQ RFVs are a better predictor of forage quality in this case. Scissor cut RFVs and PEAQ RFVs are about 20 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage. On average we lose roughly 3-4 RFV points per day.

PEAQ readings taken on May 26, and samples taken on May 31, will be available on our web site at www.sheboygan.uwex.edu. Click on: **Agronomy/Forage Alfalfa Quality**, or call InfoSource at 1-800-441-4636, #933.

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