



Agronomy and Forage

2010 Alfalfa Quality Information

Goal Relative Feed Quality (RFV) of 150

As we all know it is time to make hay.

Evaluate alfalfa plant development on a field by field basis. There are growth differences as a result of soil fertility, variety, fall management, and alfalfa stand age.

PEAQ RFVs are going to be about 10-15 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage.

Location	Sample date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage
Haven	5/25/10	Harvested	--	bud
Sheb. Falls-H	5/25/10	160	29.0	bud
Sheb. Falls-M	5/25/10	Harvested	--	bud
Sheb. Falls-J	5/25/10	156	30.0	bud
Glenbeulah	5/25/10	160	29.0	bud
Beechwood	5/25/10	156	30.0	bud
Waldo	5/25/10	Harvested	--	bud
Newburg	5/25/10	157	29.5	late bud
Hartford	5/25/10	162	28.0	bud
Kohlsville/WB	5/25/10	138	35.0	bud

The RFVs averaged across all locations in Sheboygan County, decreased 66 points from May 10 to May 25 for a RFV change of 4.4 points/day. From May 21 until May 25 we lost 5.5 RFV points per day in Sheboygan County because of the warmer temperatures. In Washington County, RFV points changed on average 4.14 points/day from May 18 until May 25.

Location	Sample Date	RFV
Sheboygan	5/10/10	224
Sheboygan	5/18/10	200
Sheboygan	5/21/10	178
Sheboygan	5/25/10	158

Location	Sample Date	RFV
Washington	5/18/10	181
Washington	5/25/10	152

These will be the last alfalfa quality measurements taken for this growing season.

Thanks to our sponsors: Sheboygan County Forage Council, Adell Coop, Kettle Lakes Coop, Farmers' Inc., and Rock River Labs. For more information contact Mike Ballweg at (920) 459-5904.

Take time to be safe

Sample Information from 5/21/10.

RFV measurements indicate the harvest should begin as soon as possible for high quality alfalfa forage.

Evaluate alfalfa plant development on a field by field basis. There are growth differences as a result of soil fertility, variety, fall management, and alfalfa stand age.

PEAQ RFVs are going to be about 10-15 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage. With very warm temperatures forecast for this coming week, expect RFVs to drop about 5 points per day. The week of May 24 looks like the ideal harvest window.

Quality measurements will be taken again on 5/25/10.

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Location	Sample date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Scissor Cut RFV	NDF	CP
Haven	5/21/10	181	25	--	--	--
Sheb. Falls-H	5/21/10	186	24	--	--	--
Sheb. Falls-M	5/21/10	172	26	--	--	--
Sheb. Falls-J	5/21/10	172	26	--	--	--
Glenbeulah	5/21/10	181	24	--	--	--
Beechwood	5/21/10	172	26	--	--	--
Waldo	5/21/10	190	22	--	--	--

Sample Information from 5/18/10.

Plant development ranges from late vegetative to early bud in western Sheboygan County and in much of Washington County. Quality measurements indicate that harvest should begin the weekend of May 21-22 away from Lake Michigan. Those closer to the lake should target the week of May 24th for harvesting high quality dairy forage.

Scissor Cut RFVs and PEAQ RFVs are about 15 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage. On average we lose roughly 3-5 RFV points per day.

Quality measurements will be taken again on 5/21/10.

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Location	Sample date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Scissor Cut RFV	NDF	CP
Haven	5/18/10	203	21.5	202	32.11	17.87
Sheb. Falls-H	5/18/10	205	21.0	203	32.10	19.72
Sheb. Falls-M	5/18/10	200	22.0	208	30.95	21.46
Sheb. Falls-J	5/18/10	203	21.5	--	--	--
Glenbeulah	5/18/10	200	22.0	203	32.95	22.66
Beechwood	5/18/10	185	23.0	199	32.69	21.74
Waldo	5/18/10	205	21.0	209	31.40	21.58
Kewaskum	5/18/10	182	23.5	176	35.80	19.70
Hartford	5/18/10	185	23.0	178	35.40	20.60
Newburg	5/18/10	187	22.5	183	35.50	21.50
Kohlsville	5/18/10	170	26.0	183	35.10	20.00

Sample Information from 5/10/10.

With one of the warmest April's on record, the alfalfa crop is developing ahead of what we have seen in recent years.

RFVs from PEAQ stick measurements are about 10-15 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage. On average we lose roughly 3-5 RFV points per day. Fields sampled are 2nd production year alfalfa fields. Evaluate alfalfa fields on a field-by-field basis. There are growth differences as a result of soil fertility, variety, fall management, and age of stand.

It would appear that with normal weather patterns, the optimal harvest window for high quality alfalfa would be in the May 20th to May 25th time-frame.

Quality measurements will be taken again on Monday, May 17th.

For more information call Mike Ballweg at (920) 459-5904.

Location	Sample date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	ADF	NDF	CP	Estimate Harvest Date
Haven	5/10/09	224	18				
Sheb. Falls-M	5/10/09	217	19				
Sheb. Falls-J	5/10/09	224	18				
Glenbeulah	5/10/09	217	19				
Beechwood	5/10/09	217	19				
Waldo	5/10/09	230	17				
Newburg	5/10/09	237	16				