

## 2015 Alfalfa Quality Watch

Goal-Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 150

### Quality Information from 5/18/15

Alfalfa grew vigorously with warm temperatures this past weekend. Look for opportunities to harvest without delay for high quality forage in Western areas of Sheboygan County. Do not be misled by the slow alfalfa "bud" development. Plant height drives forage quality.

On average we lose roughly 3-5 RFV points per day, depending on temperatures. PEAQ - RFVs are about 15 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage due to respiration and dry matter losses. Alfalfa fields sampled are either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year production fields.

PEAQ quality measurements will be taken again on May 21. For more information contact Mike Ballweg at (920) 459-5910. Results are posted on our website:  
<http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/>

Thanks to our sponsors: Adell Coop, Kettle Lakes Coop, and the Sheboygan County Forage Council Board: Matt Gartman, Cody Mullikin, Eric Radloff, Matthew Ramel, Al Shannon, Silvana Stemper, and Tom Wilterdink.

**Take time to be safe.**

Location	Scissors Cut Analysis				Field PEAQ Estimates		
Sample Date	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	RFV	Maturity	Plant Ht (inches)	PEAQ RFV
May 18, 2015							
Batavia	20.61	28.24	37.31	167	early bud	29	167
Glenbeulah	19.99	27.61	37.97	165	early bud	28	171
Sheboygan Falls	19.68	25.39	34.84	186	vegetative	24	190
Hingham - East	23.11	26.51	36.00	178	vegetative	22	200
Hingham - West	23.2	25.60	35.19	183	vegetative	24	190
Town of Wilson	23.48	23.59	33.66	195	vegetative	21	205

Here is the link to the Alfalfa Quality PEAQ chart. With this chart and a yard stick you are able to measure the alfalfa quality of individual fields on your farm.

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/files/2014/01/PEAQTable.pdf>

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