

2015 Alfalfa Quality Watch

Goal-Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 150

Quality Information from 5/21/15

Look for opportunities to harvest without delay for high quality forage in all areas of Sheboygan County, except in the Town of Wilson where Lake Michigan temperatures have delayed alfalfa growth slightly. Plant height drives forage quality more than alfalfa growth stage.

Even with the cool temperatures the past 3 days, we lost on average 2.5 RFV points per day. The RFV decline will accelerate with warmer temperatures in the forecast.

On average we lose roughly 3-5 RFV points per day, depending on temperatures. PEAQ and scissor cut 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 2nd or 3rd year production fields.

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.

Mike

Location	Sample Date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage
Batavia	5/21/15	163	30	early bud
Glenbeulah	5/21/15	171	28	early bud
Sheboygan Falls	5/21/15	185	25	early bud
Hingham – East	5/21/15	185	25	early bud
Hingham – West	5/21/15	175	27	early bud
Town of Wilson	5/21/15	195	23	vegetative

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>
