

2015 Alfalfa Quality Watch

Goal-Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 150

Quality Information from 5/26/15

Most areas received welcome rains over the weekend, now sunshine would be helpful. As you know the first crop alfalfa is ready for harvest. Look for opportunities to harvest without delay for high quality forage.

On average we lose roughly 3-5 RFV points per day, depending on temperatures. The year (2015) we lost, averaged across all PEAQ measurements, 4.5 RFV point per day from May 14th to May 26th. 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 this year were 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/> ***This is the last Alfalfa Quality Report for 2015.***

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	Sample Date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage
Batavia	5/26/15	149	32	bud
Glenbeulah	5/26/15	Harvested		
Sheboygan Falls	5/26/15	Harvested		
Hingham – East	5/26/15	164	29	early bud
Hingham – West	5/26/15	156	30	bud
Town of Wilson	5/26/15	172	27	early bud

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>
