

## 2016 Alfalfa Quality Watch

Goal-Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 150

### Quality Information from 5/16/16

The alfalfa crop is looking excellent. In order to better standardize alfalfa quality measurements, fields selected for sampling are either 2nd or 3<sup>rd</sup> year production fields.

PEAQ - RFVs are about 15 - 20 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage due to respiration and dry matter (leaf) losses. Work with your dairy nutritionist to determine the quality of alfalfa forage desired and adjust harvest accordingly. Keep in mind the quality vs. yield trade-off when harvesting alfalfa. First crop alfalfa generally has a higher NDF Digestibility because it grows during a cooler time of the year.

There are field to field difference based on fall management, soil fertility and variety.

With a yardstick and the PEAQ Chart you can monitor the quality of individual alfalfa fields on your farm.

Please find the PEAQ chart form the link below.

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

On average we lose roughly 3-5 RFV points per day depending on temperatures. The next quality measurement will be taken on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to our sponsors: Adell Coop, Kettle Lakes Coop and the Sheboygan County Forage Council Board: Matt Gartman, Cody Mullikin, Nathan Casper, Matthew Ramel, Jory Stapel, Silvana Stemper and Tom Wilterdink.

**Take time to be safe.**

Location	Sample Date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage
Batavia	5/16/16	195	23	Vegetative
Glenbeulah	5/16/16	205	21	Vegetative
Cedar Grove - D	5/16/16	217	19	Vegetative
Hingham – East	5/16/16	217	19	Vegetative
Hingham – West	5/16/16	237	16	Vegetative
Town of Wilson	5/16/16	237	16	Vegetative
Haven	5/16/16	224	18	Vegetative

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