

## 2016 Alfalfa Quality Watch

Goal-Relative Feed Value (RFV) of 150



### Quality Information from 5/26/16

Some areas received welcome rains the past several days, now sunshine would be helpful for hay making. As you know the first crop alfalfa is ready for harvest.

There may be interest to increase cutting height to improve alfalfa forage quality. Research shows that increasing the cutting height will improve quality, but will result in some DM loss.

Research done in Wisconsin showed that increasing cutting height by 1 inch improved the RFV on average by about 4 points.

A Cornell University study found that for every inch of stubble height left in the field, alfalfa NDF will decrease by about one percentage unit. So increasing the mowing height by 2 inches would decrease NDF by about two percentage points. Remember to target forage quality based on the livestock needs.

PEAQ and Scissor Cut RFVs are about 15 – 20 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage due to respiration and dry matter losses. Alfalfa fields sampled this year were either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2016.***

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.

Mike

Location	Sample Date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage
Batavia	5/26/16	-----	Harvested	-----
Glenbeulah	5/26/16	156	30	Bud
Cedar Grove - D	5/26/16	160	30	Early bud
Hingham – East	5/26/16	160	30	Early bud
Hingham – West	5/26/16	160	30	Early bud
Town of Wilson	5/26/16	172	27	Early bud
Haven	5/26/16	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>

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