

2020 Alfalfa Quality Watch



Quality Information from 6/1/2020

Look for opportunities to harvest alfalfa for high quality dairy forage. Quality forages are key to reducing milk production costs. Warm temperatures forecast for this week will increase the percentage of fiber and reduce the digestibility of that fiber. Please note the additional RFQ analysis for 2020.

You can monitor the quality of individual alfalfa fields on your farm with a yardstick and the PEAQ Chart from the link below.

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

On average we lose approximately 3-5 RFV points per day depending on temperatures. Sample and measurement RFVs are approximately 15 - 20 points higher than forage coming out of storage due to respiration and dry matter (leaf) losses.

For upcoming quality information go to:

<https://sheboygan.extension.wisc.edu/>

PEAQ quality measurements will be taken again on Thursday, June 4th.

Thanks to the Sheboygan County Forage Council Board: Steve Arentsen, Nathan Casper, Matt Gartman, Brad Laack, Cody Mullikin, Jory Stapel and Eli Wilterdink.

Take time to be safe.

Mike

Location	Scissors Cut Lab Analysis					Field PEAQ Estimates		
Sample Date <i>June 1, 2020</i>	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	RFV	RFQ	Maturity	Plant Ht (inches)	PEAQ RFV
Batavia	22.64	30.66	37.30	162	202	early bud	27	172
Hingham	23.62	29.60	38.00	162	198	early bud	28	168
Cedar Grove	20.72	33.22	41.04	143	172	early bud	29	164
Town of Wilson	22.80	28.18	36.86	169	217	late veg	22	195

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