

2020 Alfalfa Quality Watch



Quality Information from 6/4/2020

Look for opportunities to harvest alfalfa for high quality dairy forage. Despite increasing fiber levels, the **Relative Forage Quality (RFQ)** suggests the feeding quality is still reasonably good, most likely because of cool growing conditions during most of April and May. RFQ is a measure of NDF digestibility. Please note the RFQ analysis below.

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. RFVs are about 15 - 20 points higher than forage coming out of storage due to respiration and dry matter (leaf) losses.

This will be the last alfalfa quality report for the season.

For a summary of the 2020 alfalfa quality information go to:

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

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 4, 2020</i>	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	RFV	RFQ	Maturity	Plant Ht (inches)	PEAQ RFV
Batavia	21.82	32.00	39.89	149	189	bud	29	160
Hingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Grove	22.91	34.10	41.21	141	167	bud	31	144
Town of Wilson	22.40	31.73	40.26	149	180	early bud	23	185

Mike Ballweg
Extension Agricultural Agent - Crops and Soils
UW- Madison Extension
5 University Dr.
Sheboygan, WI 53081
Phone: (920) 459-5910
Cell # (920) 207-0397
Email: michael.ballweg@wisc.edu
Web: <https://sheboygan.uwex.edu/>

