

## 2020 Alfalfa Quality Watch



### Quality Information from 5/28/20

Look for opportunities to harvest alfalfa soon for high quality dairy forage. Warm temperatures for much of the last week have pushed alfalfa growth and development despite being very cool for most of May. Please note the additional RFQ analysis for 2020. Click on the following link for more information on RFQ.

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/gage/RFV%20vs%20RFQ.pdf>

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

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>

For upcoming quality information go to:

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

On average we lose approximately 3-5 RFV points per day depending on temperatures.

**Quality measurements and samples will be taken on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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 Analysis					Field PEAQ Estimates		
Sample Date <i>May 28, 2020</i>	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	RFV	RFQ	Maturity	Plant Ht (inches)	PEAQ RFV
Batavia	24.04	31.72	38.66	158	186	early bud	24	185
Hingham	27.12	29.33	36.76	173	201	late veg	24	190
Cedar Grove	19.44	37.41	43.11	129	138	late veg	27	175
Town of Wilson	21.44	31.43	39.42	152	183	late veg	20	211

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](mailto:michael.ballweg@wisc.edu)  
Web: <https://sheboygan.uwex.edu/>

