

2021 Alfalfa Quality Watch



Quality Information from 5/17/21

Alfalfa growth and development will advance quickly this week with warm temperatures forecast.

Dairy producers and nutritionists are frequently targeting RFQs greater than 150. Develop your feeding strategy with your nutritionist to ensure rations have the correct proportions of protein, energy and fiber. Plan alfalfa harvest beginning this weekend especially away from Lake Michigan, for high quality dairy forage.

PEAQ - RFVs are about 15 - 20 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage due to respiration and dry matter (leaf) losses. High quality alfalfa will help reduce purchased feed cost.

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.

Quality measurements and samples will be taken again on Thursday, May 20th.

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	Sample Date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage	Comments
Sheboygan Falls	5/17/21	237	16	Vegetative	
Howards Grove	5/17/21	211	20	Vegetative	
Batavia	5/17/21	205	21	Vegetative	HarvXtra
Hingham	5/17/21	200	22	Vegetative	
Cedar Grove	5/17/21	211	20	Vegetative	
Town of Wilson	5/17/21	224	18	Vegetative	
