

2022 Alfalfa Quality Watch



Quality Information from 5/16/22 & 5/19/22

Alfalfa growth and development has progressed nicely, despite cool spring temperatures.

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 accordingly.

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 scissor cut samples will be taken on Monday, May 23rd.

Thanks to the Sheboygan County Forage Council Board for their support of forage quality programs.

Fields listed below are in either the 2nd or 3rd production year.

Take time to be safe.

Mike

Location	Sample Date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage	Comments
Sheboygan/Town of Wilson	5/16/22	240+	15	Vegetative	
Hingham	5/16/22	230	17	Vegetative	
Cedar Grove	5/16/22	230	17	Vegetative	
Plymouth	5/16/22	230	17	Vegetative	
Elkhart Lake/Town of Rhine	5/16/22	230	17	Vegetative	
Batavia	5/16/22	217	19	Vegetative	
Wash. Co/Town of Addison #1	5/16/22	224	18	Vegetative	

Location	Sample Date	PEAQ RFV	Plant Ht (inches)	Growth Stage	Comments
Sheboygan/Town of Wilson	5/19/22	230	17	Vegetative	
Hingham	5/19/22	211	20	Vegetative	
Cedar Grove	5/19/22	217	19	Vegetative	
Plymouth	5/19/22	211	20	Vegetative	
Elkhart Lake/Town of Rhine	5/19/22	211	20	Vegetative	
Batavia	5/19/22	211	20	Vegetative	
Wash. Co/Town of Addison #1	5/19/22	205	21	Vegetative	
Wash. Co/Town of Addison #2	5/19/22	205	21	Vegetative	