

2022 Alfalfa Quality Watch



Quality Information from 5/23/22

Alfalfa growth and development has progressed nicely. Look for opportunities to harvest high quality alfalfa forage this coming Memorial Day Weekend.

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 & RFQs 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 Thursday, May 26th.

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	Scissors Cut Lab Analysis*				Field PEAQ Estimates		
Sample Date	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	RFQ	Maturity	Plant Ht (inches)	PEAQ RFV
May 23, 2022							
Sheboygan/ Town of Wilson	23.18	30.32	38.94	166	Vegetative	21	205
Hingham	25.99	28.09	35.85	194	Early Bud	24	190
Cedar Grove	22.05	29.15	38.39	193	Early Bud	24	190
Plymouth	20.72	31.02	40.32	169	Early Bud	23	195
Elkhart Lake/ Town of Rhine	25.67	26.34	33.70	209	Early Bud	23	195
Batavia	24.74	28.83	36.63	193	Early Bud	23	195
Wash. Co/Town of Addison #1	25.65	28.44	35.60	198	Early Bud	23	195
Wash. Co/Town of Addison #2	24.23	28.57	37.23	194	Early Bud	24	190