

2022 Alfalfa Quality Watch



Quality Information from 5/26/22

Look for opportunities to harvest high quality alfalfa forage this coming Memorial Day Weekend. High temperatures this coming week will cause a rapid decline in forage quality.

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

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.

Questions please let me know.

Take time to be safe.

Mike

Location	Scissors Cut Lab Analysis*				Field PEAQ Estimates		
	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	RFQ	Maturity	Plant Ht (inches)	PEAQ RFV
Sample Date <i>May 26, 2022</i>							
Sheboygan/ Town of Wilson	27.74	26.81	36.23	193	Early Bud	23	195
Hingham	27.66	27.64	35.21	192	Early Bud	26	176
Cedar Grove	20.50	31.57	41.64	165	Early Bud	26	176
Plymouth	27.40	29.34	37.57	179	Early Bud	25	180
Elkhart Lake/ Town of Rhine	24.83	29.09	37.34	165	Early Bud	26	176
Batavia (Low-Lignin Trait)	23.58	28.01	37.97	204	Early Bud	26	176
Wash. Co/Town of Addison #1	24.85	29.61	39.56	183	Early Bud	27	172