

## June 2\*, 2011 Alfalfa Harvest Alert / Scissors-Cut Information

Central Minnesota Forage Council, U of M Extension, Farm and Business Cooperators

*\*Sampling Dates Vary with Memorial Day, Most RECENT Sample Date received is noted*

Chart starts with all farms for most recent test - followed by all tests for individual farms.

Farms are listed somewhat from south to north. Watch 3-4 samples for trend line.

"Hgt" is height of tallest stems in 2 foot square sample area.

"Mat" is Maturity of most mature stem 1=Veg 2=Bud 3=Flower

***Bold Italic are cut now, that I know***

*	Farm	County	Town	Hgt	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP
5/30	Stocker	Scott	Jordan	26	2	170	201		25.4	32.0		25.4
	Lambrech	Scott	Belle Plain									
6/2	Dreier	Carver	Norwood	29	2	160	163		30.1	37.1		22.1
6/2	Hoen	Carver	Bongard	34	2	143	144		32.7	41.1		19.9
5/31	Wandersee	Carver	Watertown	27	2	169	161		30.2	37.8		22.7
6/1	Anderson	McLeod	Lester Prairie	26.6	2	169	173	179	28.0	36.1	46.5	24.0
6/1	Bohn	Meeker	Cedar Mills	25.6	2	174	142	143	32.8	41.6	45.2	19.3
5/30	Poppler	Wright	Waverly	31	2	160	180	187	28.4	34.5	42.2	22.1
5/31	Krause	Wright	W Buffalo	30	2	156	156		32.0	38.1		19.5
6/2	<b><i>Gathje</i></b>	Stearns	Eden Valley	26	2	170	212?		26.4	29.9		25.9
6/2	Maus	Stearns	S Freeport	26	2	172	193		28.6	32.1		22.9
5/30	<b><i>Frericks</i></b>	Stearns	N Melrose	29	2	164	189		28.1	33.0		22.3
5/31	<b><i>Winkelman</i></b>	Benton	E Duelm	27	1.75	170	172	181	28.4	36.2	44.1	22.6
6/2	<b><i>Scapanski</i></b>	Benton	NE Sauk Rapids	29	2	160	204?	224?	25.4	31.6	47.3	24.8
5/31	<b><i>O &amp; S Dairy</i></b>	Benton	E Rice	27.5	1.75	168	150	149	31.8	39.8	39.4	22.2
5/31	<b><i>O&amp;S Sample with old crop residue**</i></b>			27.5	1.75	168	141	130	33.5	41.5	35.0	23.0
6/2	Roerick	Morrison	SE Upsala	27.5	2	168	184		29.7	33.2		23.8
6/2	Pierz	Morrison	N Pierz	28	2	163	158	174	29.5	38.7	48.6	26.1

\*\*Old crop residue, grass, weeds can be a factor with variations that are difficult to predict. This can be quite variable from one sample to the next.

NDF at 40 is considered typical with 150 RFV Hay. We can gain 3-6 points NDF from the field to the feed manger. To have alfalfa in the feed manger at 40 or less, harvest might start with field samples at 34+.

### Stocker - Scott Co - Jordan

### 2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19	18	1	220	252		21.5	26.6		25/4		
5/23	21	1	205	198		25.1	32.6		25.7		
5/26	24	2	180	212		25.7	30.2		27.0		
5/30	26	2	170	201		25.4	32.0		25.4		

### Lambrech - Scott Co - Belle Plain

### 2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	16	1	240	266		21.7	25.2		28.6		
5/19	21	1	208	215		25.4	29.9		25.3		
5/23	24	1	190	203		26.7	31.1		25.3		
5/26	26	1	180	195		27.8	32.1		25.3		
5/30											

Dreier - Carver Co - Norwood

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	14	1	252	231		23.1	28.5		25.0		
5/19	17	1	230	249		21.6	26.9		24.1		
5/23	20	1	212	207		25.5	31.0		25.8		
5/26	24	1	185	224		25.8	28.7		26.1		
5/31	28	2	168	190		27.9	32.9		24.2		
6/2	29	2	160	163		30.1	37.1		22.1		

Hoen - Carver Co - Bongard

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	17	1	230	241		22.2	27.6		26.2		
5/19	19	1	217	237		23.0	27.9		25.7		
5/23	23	2	185	179		28.3	34.8		25.2		
5/26	27	2	167	192		26.6	33.0		23.4		
5/31	32	2	150	153		31.1	29.3		20.0		
6/2	34	2	143	144		32.7	41.1		19.9		

Wandersee - Carver - Watertown

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	15	1	245	257		21.5	26.1		29.2		
5/19	18	1	225	243		21.9	27.5		25.0		
5/23	21.5	1	205	191		26.6	33.3		24.4		
5/26	24	1	190	194		26.6	32.7		24.4		
5/31	27	2	169	161		30.2	37.8		22.7		

Anderson - McLeod - Lester Prairie

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19	14	1	252	242		21.8	27.6		24.1		
5/23	20	2	202	186	188	26.9	33.9	46.3	24.6		
5/26	23.1	2	185	171	159	30.2	35.6	40.6	24.2		
6/1	26.6	2	169	173	179	28.0	36.1	46.5	24.0		

Bohn - Meeker - Cedar Mills

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19	17.6	1	227	238		22.0	28.1		25.9		
5/23	18.9	2	207	193	195	27.1	32.7	45.8	25.1		
5/26	21.7	2	191	186	189	27.8	33.5	46.5	22.6		
6/1	25.6	2	174	142	143	32.8	41.6	45.2	19.3		

Poppler - Wright Co - near Waverly

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	18	1	225	275	299	20.3	24.7	49.5	27.6		
5/19	20.5	1	208	268	284	20.0	25.5	45.9	26.3		
5/23	25	1	185	182	191	27.6	34.4	44.5	23.8		
5/26	28	1	171	181	186	27.5	34.7	42.2	23.1		
5/30	21	2	160	180	187	28.4	34.5	42.2	22.1		

Krause - Wright Co - west of Buffalo

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	15.5	1	>240	274		20.8	24.7		26.9		
5/19	17	1	230	236		23.7	27.8		25.5		
5/23	21	1	205	193		27.8	32.3		24.3		
5/26	24.5	2	178	201		26.1	31.7		23.2		
5/31	30	2	156	156		32.0	38.1		19.5		

Gathje - Stearns Co- northeast of Eden Valley

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/19											
5/23	18	1	224	226		24.8	28.6		26.7		
5/26	22	1	200	243		23.8	27.0		26.0		
5/31	25	2	175	212		26.3	30.6		25.4		
6/2	26	2	170	212?		26.4	29.9		25.9		Cut June 2

Gathje - Grass Hay

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/19											
5/23	18	TDN 64		102	121	34.0	56.6	67.2	19.7		NDFd48 hr
5/26	18	TDN 60.7		114	134	30.7	53.2	67.2	17.6		NDFd48 hr
5/31	20	TDN 55.25		94	110	35.8	60.9	62.3	15.4		NDFd48 hr 84??
6/2											

Maus - Stearns Co - south of Freeport

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19	15	1	240	279		20.8	24.2		24.8		
5/23	18	1	224	221		25.6	29.1		25.2		
5/26	20.5	1	208	268		21.3	25.11		24.3		200-220 RFV more real?
5/30											
6/2	26	2	172	193		28.6	32.1		22.9		

## Frericks - Stearns Co 4 miles - north of Melrose

## 2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19	17	1	237	258		21.9	25.9		26.4		
5/23	22	1	211	191		27.3	32.9		25.1		
5/26	24	2	188	227		24.0	28.8		24.5		
5/30	29	2	164	189		28.1	33.0		22.3		

Cut June 1?

## Winkelman - Benton Co - east of Duelm

## 2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19	15	1	240	259	275	20.6	26.2	46.1	25.2		
5/23	21	1	205	184	191	26.4	34.4	44.7	25.2		
5/26	22.3	1.2	190	218	243	23.3	30.2	50.1	24.3		
5/31	27	1.75	170	172	181	28.4	36.2	44.1	22.6		Lodged

Cut May 31

## D Scapanski - Benton Co - 8 miles NE of Sauk Rapids

## 2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	14.3	1	>240	276		19.5	24.9	54.1	25.6		Notes
5/19	17	1	230	225	245	22.7	29.5	49.6	25.5		
5/23	21	1	205	188	197	26.4	33.8	45.5	26.0		
5/26	23.7	1.3	186	198	214	25.8	32.3	47.3	23.1		
5/31	27.5	2	166	168	173	29.7	36.4	42.5	23.6		Lodged
6/2	29	2	160	204?	224?	25.4	31.6	47.3	24.8		

Cut June 2

## O &amp; S Dairy - Benton Co - East of Rice

## 2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16	14.5	1	>240	284	304	19.4	24.2	52.75	28.2		
5/19	17.5	1	227	242	249	22.0	27.6	43.2	26.0		
5/23	22	1	205	150	173	32.5	39.4	58.2	24.2		RFV ~200 more real?
5/26	25	1.3	182	195	200	26.3	32.7	42.9	24.1		
5/31	27.5	1.75	168	150	149	31.8	39.8	39.4	22.2		Lodged

Cut June 1

## O &amp; S Dairy - WITH OLD CROP RESIDUE

## 2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19	17.5	1	227?	163	162	29.4	37.7	40.6	23.8		
5/23	22	1	205?	153	143	31.7	39.1	36.8	24.9		
5/26	25	1.3	182?	124	124	36.3	45.4	38.7	19.8		
5/31	27.5	1.75	168	141	130	33.5	41.5	35.0	23.0		Lodged

Cut June 1

Roerick - Morrison Co - southeast of Upsala

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19											
5/23	20	1	211	207		26.7	30.7		26.0		
5/26	21	1	205	263		22.5	25.2		27.4		
5/31	25	1	185	170		31.5	35.1		23.1		
6/2	27.5	2	168	184		29.7	33.2		23.8		

Pierz - Morrison Co - north of Pierz

2011 Scissors-Cut Harvest Alert Information

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/16											
5/19											
5/23	21.5	1	204	221		23.5	29.7		27.8		Ave of 2
5/26	24	1	188	220	244	23.9	29.6	50.2	25.9		
5/31	25	1	185	187	200	27.2	33.7	45.7	26.7		
6/2	28	2	163	158	174	29.5	38.7	48.6	26.1		

**Cooperating Agri-Businesses**

Vita Plus, Barry Viser and Jack Hales

Waconia Farm Supply, Bob Nelson and Rich Schug

Munson Lakes Nutrition, Nutritionist Mike Foust

Famo Feeds and Hutchinson Coop with Rod Riewer

Cooperating Labs Stearns DHIA Lab at Sauk Centre

Dairyland Lab at Sauk Rapids

Extension Educators

Laura Kieser, Carver / Scott Counties

952-466-5300

Nathan Winter, McLeod / Meeker Counties

320-484-4334

Dan Martens, Stearns / Benton / Morrison Counties

1-800-964-4929

[marte011@umn.edu](mailto:marte011@umn.edu)

**NOTES**

5/16 Some people have wondered if a shorter than normal crop at this point, with coarse stems, is more mature related to its height. Lab testss show the feed quality is NOT lower than we'd expect for this height, maybe better. Remember we like to have 3 samples for confidence related to possible sampling variations.

Cool weather tends to reduces fiber, increase fiber digestibility, and reduce protein.

These field measured 23 to 26 inches on May 17 last year.

5/23 Common reports of 2.5 inches of rain from last Friday through Sunday. Can find the beginning of buds forming on some stems in Benton County samples if I pick away at the top of some stems. Would not call it bud stage yet. It looks like next week will be the week we'd like to see some good weather and field conditions for making hay ..... planting corn, planting soybeans. Planters may get parked for hay making where dairy quality hay is important. Barry Visser at Poppler's: "buds on the verge."

**Alfalfa Weevil.** Eggs start to hatch at about 300 growing degree days based on a 48 degree minimum. The MN/WI GDD model at <http://www.soils.wisc.edu/uwex> shows Stearns, Benton and Morrison Counties in a area with between 200 and 300 GDD. We'd start to look for larvae after 300 GDD. There may be warmer pocekts in communities that have reach 300 GDD.

5/26

WEATHER: Extension Climatologist Mark Seeley Wrote May 25: Forecast models show a significant warm-up following Memorial Weekend . Temps in the 70's maybe 80's and in 50's at night.

First few days of June (1-3) should be relatively dry, followed by chances for rainfall June 4-6.

Then a second longer dry period should prevail June 6-12 in most areas of Minnesota, except SE areas where passing low pressure systems will bring daily chances for showers. Perhaps the drier intervals will allow getting more field work done.

ALFALFA WEEVIL: I did see some pin hole feeding in some leaves at the legume/grass trial plot near St. Joseph on May 26. Growing Degree Days are too low yet for a large amount of hatching to have occurred yet.

It will be prudent to watch for AW in second crop regrowth and following. It is important to NOT spray for insects unless standard population thresholds are reached.

A nice summary of Alfalfa Weevil information can be found by using Google to search for "Minnesota Extension Alfalfa Weevil ". One helpful item can be found directly at:  
[http://www.extension.umn.edu/Forages/pdfs/alfalfa\\_insects\\_forage\\_days\\_09.pdf](http://www.extension.umn.edu/Forages/pdfs/alfalfa_insects_forage_days_09.pdf)

5/31

ALFALFA WEEVIL. Today the MN WI Alfalfa Weevil Model shows the 300 GDD line running approximately east and west from about Morris through St. Cloud and Cambridge now. This is the point where we'd expect in a normal year that a fair amount of egg hatch has taken place. With a cool spring the hatch could be sporadic because of variable temperature conditons. I saw two adult weevils while scissors cut sampling this morning.

GRASS ALFLAFA MIX. I sampled a field this morning weighed up about 34% grass and 66% alfalfa with the tallest alfalfa stems about 22 inches and early bud. It tested 149 RFV and 169 RFQ with NDF at 40.5 and protein at 21.7. Cherney' s chart shows that he'd expect NDF at 37-38 based on estimating 34% grass and alfalfa at 22 inches. Close enough to know it would make very good feed if it could be harvested now. Like many neighbors they'll make the best of it when they can.

6/2

Hay harvest is underway. As is sometime the case fields can be variable in the same neighborhood. Consider YOUR crop, feeding strategies, soil conditions, hunch about the weather and other priorities.

Crop Consultant Rick Gilbertson, in the St. Cloud/Rice areas reports yellowing alfalfa in low spots, says alfalfa is like other plants in saturated soil too long - yellow. These areas could be subject to further decline over time.

Alfalfa Weevil. Bruce Potter at Lamberton sent a note today: Alfalfa Weevil are doing fine at Lambeton, 10 or more larva/sweep here but only 30% tip feeding.

I found 1 larvae in about 20 sweeps at one field here in Benton County this morning. Our hatch can be expected to be behind Lamberton. People who are cutting now should watch second crop regrowth and watch throughout the second crop season.