

May 3, 2012 Alfalfa Harvest Alert / Scissors-Cut Information

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

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

	Farm	County	Town	Hgt	Mat	PEAQ	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP
1	Stocker	Scott	Jordan									
2	Lambrecht	Scott	Belle Plain									
3	Dreier	Carver	Norwood	21	veg	207	186		27.6	33.7		25.8
4	Hoehn	Carver	Bongard	17	veg	230	229		23.5	28.6		26.6
5	Wandersee	Carver	Watertown	15	veg	245	201		25.2	32.0		24.7
6	Kreinke	McLeod	Lester Prairie									
7	Bohn	Meeker	Cedar Mills	13.1	veg	>250	207		25.1	31.1		26.3
8	Poppler	Wright	Waverly	*								
9	Krause	Wright	W Buffalo	18	veg	224						
10	Gathje	Stearns	Eden Valley	14	veg	245	225		24.9	28.7		29.3
11	Maus	Stearns	S Freeport									
12	Frericks	Stearns	N Melrose	17	veg	233	273		20.8	24.8		26.8
13	Winkelman	Benton	E Duelm	10-13	veg	>250	238	235	22.6	27.8	38	27.3
14	Scapanski	Benton	NE Sauk Rapids	10-13	veg	245	195	193	26.6	32.5	39.8	24.1
16	Scapanski Spring Seeded 2011			12	veg	>250	252	254	21.5	26.4	40.3	29.5
16	O & S Dairy	Benton	E Rice	15	veg	245	235	248	22.3	28.3	41.8	26.6
17	O&S Sample with old crop residue**			15	veg	245	154	155	30.8	39.4	38.6	22.6
18	Roerick	Morrison	SE Upsala									
19		Morrison										

* See samples from previous test days in pages following.

** Old crop residue, grass, weeds can be a factor with variations that are difficult to predict.

As the new crop grows, we might expect old residue to be a smaller share of sample, and less significant. There is seldom a reason to remove old crop residue in the spring.

Key Points:

For scissors-cut sampling the goal is to have at least 3 tests that are 3-4 days apart to establish a trend that is more reliable than an one-time sample.

Hay or Haylage in the feed bunk can be expected to have an RFV that is 15 to 25 points lower than the fresh-cut sample test or what the PEAQ stick or chart indicates because of harvest and storage loss.

Harvest might start when a fresh-cut sample or PEAQ RFV numbers are 15 to 25 points higher than the feed target. The PEAQ RFV number indicates what we could expect to see in a fresh-cut lab test.

NDF might be 3 to 6 points higher for harvested feed. Harvest might start with fresh-cut samples or PEAQ NDF is 3-6 points lower than feed targets.

When alfalfa gets to be 22 to 24 to 26 inches tall, buds are likely to start to form and dairy producers might watch for a good weather window to harvest.

Livestock producers will have different quality targets based on the type of animals, other ration ingredients, and past experience with harvest and feeding of hay products.

It can be useful for livestock producers who work with nutrition advisor to talk with their nutrition advisor about harvest targets and strategies.

Lambrecht - Scott Co - Belle Plain

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes

Dreier - Carver Co - Norwood

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
4/25	14	veg	>240	284		20.2	23.9		26.1		
4/30	16.5	veg	235	235	242	23.5	27.9	40.4	26.9		
5/3	21	veg	207	186		27.6	33.7		25.8		

Hoer - Carver Co - Bongard

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
4/30	14	veg	>240	264	274	21.5	25.4	40.4	27.8		
5/3	17	veg	230	229		23.5	28.6		26.6		

Wandersee - Carver - Watertown

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	15	veg	245	201		25.2	32.0		24.7		

Kreinke - McLeod - Lester Prairie

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes

Bohn - Meeker - Cedar Mills

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	13.1	Veg	>250	207		25.1	31.1		26.3		

Poppler - Wright Co - near Waverly

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
4/30	18	Veg	224	270	275	20.9	25.0	40.5	29.1		

Krause - Wright Co - west of Buffalo

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	18	veg	224								

Gathje - Stearns Co- northeast of Eden Valley

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	18	veg	245	225		24.9	28.7		29.3		

Maus - Stearns Co - south of Freeport

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes

Frericks - Stearns Co 4 miles - north of Melrose

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	17	veg	233	273		20.8	24.8		26.8		

Winkelman - Benton Co - east of Duelm

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	10-13	veg	>250	238	235	22.6	27.8	38	27.3		

D Scapanski - Benton Co - 8 miles NE of Sauk Rapids - Older Stand

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	10-13	veg	245	195	193	26.6	32.5	39.8	24.1		

D Scapanski - Benton Co - East of Rice -2011 Spring Seeded

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	12	veg	>250	252	254	21.5	26.4	40.3	29.5		

O & S Dairy - Benton Co - East of Rice

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	15	veg	245	235	248	22.3	28.3	41.8	26.6		

O & S Dairy - SAME FIELD WITH OLD CROP RESIDUE

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	15	veg	245	154	155	30.8	39.4	38.6	22.6		

Old crop residue will be less significant as new crop grows. This varies a lot with what is sampled.												

Roerick - Morrison Co - southeast of Upsala

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes

Cooperating Agri-Businesses

Vita Plus, Barry Viser

Waconia Farm Supply, Bob Nelson and Rich Schug

Famo Feeds and Hutchinson Coop with Rod Riewer

Cooperating Labs Stearns DHIA Lab at Sauk Centre
Dairyland Lab at Sauk Rapids

Extension Educators

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NOTES

4/24 Charles Krause at Buffalo reported some alfalfa being 14 inches tall

4/26 Field at Winkelman's near Duelm mostly 6-8-10 inches tall. Some plants in older stands look a little pale. All field were cut in the fall with little regrowth going into winter. Some brown frosted leaf edges from April 20-21-22.

4/27 Scapanski's SE of Mayhew Lake mostly 6-8-10 inches tall in older stands with little fall regrowth. New seeding from spring 2011 is a little shorter but more uniform.

4/27 O & S Dairy East of Rice Field with a lot of old crop residue 10-14 inches tall. Other fields with old crop residue 8-12 inches. Other fields 6-8 inches.

5/1 Stormy Rainy weather in the evening, some areas got as much as 2 inches.