

## May 7, 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.

**\* Last Data from May 3 yet.**

"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	Cologne	24	veg	190	172		29.1	35.7		24.0
3	Dreier	Carver	Norwood	24	bud	180	187		27.8	33.4		25.6
4	Hoehn	Carver	Bongard	19	bud	210	191		27.4	32.8		26.0
5	Wandersee	Carver	Watertown	19	veg	220	196		26.3	32.5		25.4
6	Kreinke	McLeod	Lester Prairie	20	veg	220	231	245	22.7	28.7		25.9
7	Bohn	Meeker	Cedar Mills	15	veg	227	197		26.6	32.2		25.5
8	Poppler	Wright	Waverly	24	veg	190	188	185	27.2	33.5	35.4	26.2
9	Krause	Wright	W Buffalo	24	veg	190	170		30.7	35.6		23.9
10	Gathje	Stearns	Eden Valley	17.5	veg	227	215		25.2	29.9		27.3
11	Maus	Stearns	S Freeport	17	VEG	230	247		23.0	26.8		26.75
12	Frericks	Stearns	N Melrose	20.5	veg	215	264		20.5	25.6		25.03
13	Winkelman	Benton	E Duelm	14	veg	>240	251	256	21.4	26.8	37.4	28.4
14	Scapanski	Benton	NE Sauk Rapids	12-14	veg	>240	214	220	24.2	30.3	38.9	26.5
16	Scapanski Spring Seeded 2011			14	veg	>240	256	268	21.2	26.3	41.4	30.6
16	O & S Dairy	Benton	E Rice	17	veg	230	218	224	23.8	30.0	38.1	25.0
17			Field cut later last fall	14	veg	>240	233	243	22.8	28.3	39.9	26.2
18	Roerick	Morrison	SE Upsala									
19		Morrison										

\*Data from previous sampling date yet as noted on pages below.

\*\* 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
5/3	22	veg	200	193		28.1	32.4		26.2		
5/7	24	veg	190	172		29.1	35.7		24.0		

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		
5/7	24	bud	180	187		27.8	33.4		25.6		

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		
5/7	19	bud	210	191		27.4	32.8		26.0		

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		
5/7	19	veg	220	196		26.3	32.5		25.4		

Kreinke - McLeod - Lester Prairie

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/7	20	veg	220	231	245	22.7	28.7		25.9		

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		
5/7	15	veg	227	197		26.6	32.2		25.5		Hgt 9-20

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		
5/7	24	veg	190	188	185	27.2	33.5	35.4	26.2		

Krause - Wright Co - west of Buffalo

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/3	18	veg	224	No Lab Sample							
5/7	24	veg	190	170		30.7	35.6		23.9		

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		
5/7	17.5	veg	227	215		25.2	29.9		27.3		
	2 minutes of marble size hail on Sat May 5 6:30 p.m.										

Maus - Stearns Co - south of Freeport

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/7	17	VEG	230	247		23.0	26.8		26.8		

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		
5/7	20.5	veg	215	264		20.5	25.6		25.0		

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		
5/7	14	veg	>240	251	256	21.4	26.8	37.4	28.4		Ave 2 Samples

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		Ave 2 Samples
5/7	12-14	veg	>240	214	220	24.2	30.3	38.9	26.5		

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		
5/7	14	veg	>240	256	268	21.2	26.3	41.4	30.6		

O & S Dairy - Benton Co - East of Rice old crop residue removed

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		
5/7	17	veg	230	218	224	23.8	30.0	38.1	25.0		

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		
5/7	17	veg		129	121	35.4	44.2	33.0	19.3		
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

## 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. Cut in the fall with little regrowth going into winter. Some brown frosted leaf edges from 5/20-22.

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.

5/7 Mostly rainy and cloudy since May 3 sampling. In Foley about 4 inches of rain since last Tuesday.

MORE VARIATION IN 2012 from field to field, farm to farm, make it IMPORTANT TO CHECK what your fields are like. Buds are showing up in some fields. Some fields around 24 inches, lab tests are looking like **some producers will be taking a closer look** at the weather and field conditions related to harvest before too long. Fields on the same farm might vary by 10 days or more for harvest.

Dan Moscho, Dairyland Lab shared yesterday, that in SW MN where harvest is being considered, they are seeing second crop shoots starting at the crown. We'd like to avoid clipping second crop shoots with first crop harvest - something to check.

In the Pierz area and 3-4 miles north on Tuesday May 8, the better looking alfalfa seemed to be 12-13 inches tall. Here too VARIATION is key to keep in mind.