

May 25, 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 a Previous Date.**

"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	27	bud	168	206		25.5	31.1		24.1
2*	Lambrecht	Scott	Cologne	28	bud	165	167		29.6	36.7		21.2
3*	Dreier	Carver	Norwood	25	bud	175	197		27.1	32	Cut <5/14	
4*	Hoer	Carver	Bongard	24	bud	185	181		28.8	34.2		22.8
5*	Wandersee	Carver	Watertown	26	bud	175	172		29.1	35.9		23.6
6*	Kreinke	McLeod	Lester Prairie	27	bud	168	187	196	27.2	33.6	Cut 5/14	
*	Mohr	McLeod	Glencoe	19-26	80%Bd	185	average tallest stems			23.7	Cut 5/15	
*	Rickeman	McLeod	Hutchinson	19.5	veg	213	209		25.2	30.8	Cut 5/13	
7*	Bohn	Meeker	Cedar Mills	24.9	bud	177	146		33.1	40.2	20-30 inches	
8*	Poppler	Wright	Waverly	24	veg	190	188	185	27.2	33.5	Cut 5/9	
9*	Krause	Wright	W Buffalo	30	bud	156	183		27.3	34.4	At Chopping	
10*	Gathje	Stearns	Eden Valley	24	V/B	190	222		24.6	29.2	Cut 5/16	
11*	Maus	Stearns	S Freeport	24	bud	181	213		25.4	30.2	Lodged	24.4
12*	Frericks	Stearns	N Melrose	28	bud	164	199		26.1	32.1		21.9
13	Winkelman	Benton	E Duelm	25-29	bud	164	167	172	29.5	36.8	38.9	24
14*	Scapanski	Benton	NE Sauk Rapids	24.5	bud	179	173	176	28.7	35.8	Cut 5/21-22	
15*		Spring Seeded 2011		24.5	bud	179	193	195	26.7	32.9	Cut 5/21-22	
16*	O & S Dairy	Benton	E Rice	23	bud	185	193	201	26.2	32.9	Cut May 17	
17*		Field cut later last fall		24	bud	181	184	197	27.5	34.2	Cut 5/21	
18*	Roerick	Morrison	SW of Upsala	23	bud	185	223		24.3	29.2		25
19*	Hales	Mo.Co.	Little Rock/Buckman	23.75	bud	182	183	187	27.8	34.2	38	24.6

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

**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. Weeds can be an issue too.

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.

Stocker - Scott - Jordan

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/10	21	prebd	210	215		24.3	30.2		24.3		
5/14	23	veg	198	228		23.6	29		24.4		Ave 2 Samples
5/17	25	bud	175	182		26.8	34.6		20.8		
5/21	27	bud	168	206		25.5	31.1		24.1		

Lambrech - 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		
5/10	26	Ebud	175	188		28.1	33.1		23.8		
5/14	28	bud	165	167		29.6	36.7		21.2		

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		
5/10	25	bud	175	197		27.1	32		23.0		Cut <5/14

Hoen - 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		
5/10	20	bud	200	194		27.4	32.5		23.1		
5/14	21	bud	195	205		26.1	31.1		24.3		
5/17	22	bud	190	173		30.3	35.1		23.6		
5/21	24	bud	185	181		28.8	34.2		22.8		

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		
5/10	23.5	veg	190	217		24.4	30.0		24.6		
5/14	26	bud	175	172		29.1	35.9		23.6		

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		
5/10	23	veg	200	269	283	20.8	25.3	40.7	24.9		
5/14	26	bud	175	172		29.1	35.9		23.6		Cut May 14

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
5/10	17.5	veg	224	208		25.9	30.7		24.3		
5/14	19.3	60%Bd	224	208		25.9	30.7		24.3		Hgt 11-24
5/17	21.3	bud	198	164		30.5	37		22		Hgt 12-27
5/21	24.9	bud	177	146		33.1	40.2		20.8		20-30 inches

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		CUT May 9
May 14 Harvested haylage sample tested 185 RFV and 24% Protein											

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		
5/10	27	bud	168	190		27.6	33.1		22.7		Cut 5/13
5/15	30	bud	156	183		27.3	34.4		24.9		After Chopping

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.											
5/10	20	veg	210	216		24.9	29.9		26.8		
5/14	22	veg	200	203		26.1	31.5		25.1		
5/16	24	Veg/bud	190	222		24.6	29.2		26.7		Cut 5/16

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		
5/10	18	VEG	224	252		21.7	26.5		25.1		
5/14	20.5	veg	209	224		24.1	29.1		23.9		
5/17	22	bud	190	213		25.4	30.2		24.4		
5/21	24	bud	181	213		25.4	30.2	Lodged	24.4		Lodged

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		
5/10	22	veg	200	224		23.4	29.4		23.5		
5/14	26	bud	172	262		20.9	25.8		26.2		
5/17	28	bud	164	199		26.1	32.1		21.9		

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
5/10	15	veg	245	240	253	22.6	27.8	41.2	25.2		Ave 2 Samples
5/14	19	bud	207	227	239	23.1	29.1	42.6	25.9		Ave 2 Samples
5/17	22	bud	190	203	209	25.2	32.4	40.1	22.9		Ave 2 Samples
5/21	23.5	bud	183	193	200	26.1	33.1	39.6	24.2	Lodged	Ave 2 Samples
5/25	25-29	bud	164	167	172	29.5	36.8	38.9	24		

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		
5/7	12-14	veg	>240	214	220	24.2	30.3	38.9	26.5		Ave 2 Samples
5/10	15	veg	245	226	242	23.5	29.2	43.8	25.8		Ave 2 Samples
5/14	19	bud	207	205	219	25.6	31.4	43.9	23.7		Ave 2 Samples
5/17	22	bud	190	210	222	24.9	31.5	41.9	23.1		Ave 2 Samples
5/21	24.5	bud	179	173	176	28.7	35.8	38.2	21.7	Lodged	Cut 5/21-22

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		
5/10	17	veg	230	240	254	22.5	27.7	42.1	26.8		
5/14	21	bud	196	230	239	23.4	28.7	42.6	27.4		
5/17	22	bud	190	250	264	21.8	26.8	42.3	27.5		
5/21	24.5	bud	179	193	195	26.7	32.9	38.4	22.5	Lodged	Cut 5/21-22

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		
5/10	19	veg	217	217	227	23.9	30.1	40.1	24.8		
5/14	22	bud	190	188	191	26.8	33.6	38.8	23.3		
5/17	23	bud	185	193	201	26.2	32.9	40	21.6		Cut May 17

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	230	129	121	35.4	44.2	33.0	19.3		
5/10	19	veg	217	141	135	33.4	41.6	34.7	29.8		
5/14	22	bud	190	161	162	29.6	38.0	38.6	21.2		
5/17	23	bud	185	153	151	31	39.5	36.9	19.6		Cut May 17

Old crop residue should be less significant as new crop grows. This can vary a lot with what is sampled.

O & S Dairy - Benton Co - Countour Field had been cut later in fall

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/7	14	veg	>240	233	243	22.8	28.3	39.9	26.2		
5/10	15.5	veg	240	274	299	20.9	24.7	42.4	26.4		
5/14	19.5	bud	204	213	225	24.7	30.5	43.9	23.5		
5/17	22	bud	190	197	216	25.7	32.5	43.5	21.4		
5/21	24	bud	181	184	197	27.5	34.2	41.9	22		Cut 5/21

Roerick - Morrison Co - southwest of Upsala

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/10	15	veg	237	222		25.1	29.1		26.9		
5/14	20	veg	211	243		22.7	27.3		25.8		
5/17	23	bud	185	223		24.3	29.2		25		
5/21											

Morrison Co - between Little Rock and Buckman

Date	Height	Mat	PEAQ RFV	RFV	RFQ	ADF	NDF	NDFd	CP	GDD	Notes
5/14	20.5	veg	208	225	237	24.0	29.0	42.9	25.1		
5/17	23.5	veg	193	187		27.4	33.5		22.9		
5/21	23.75	bud	182	183	187	27.8	34.2	38	24.6		

Cooperating Agri-Businesses

Vita Plus, Barry Viser and Jack Hales

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

Laura Kieser, Carver / Scott Counties 952-466-5300 lkieser@co.carver.mn.us

Nathan Winter, McLeod / Meeker Counties 320-484-4334 Wint0146@umn.edu

Dan Martens, Stearns / Benton / Morrison Counties 968-6450 or 1-800-964-4929 marte011@umn.edu

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 in 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 VARIATON is key to keep in mind.

5/10 Harlan Poppler by Waverly cut fields on May 9.

Alfalfa Weevil - For the next 4-6 weeks maybe, keep an eye out for signs of feeding by the Alfalfa Weevil Larva (AWL). I have not seen or heard of great indications of AWL in our area yet this spring. There are reasons to think they could show up and be an issue. There should be plenty of moisture now for second crop alfalfa to start strong after first crop harvest. I readily see new shoots starting where I have clipped scissors-cut samples.

Plans are being made for more cutting next week where the crop is ready for the farmer's need.

5/14 It's NOT all the same.

~Craig Roerick shared a sample from the family dairy, measuring 22-24 inches, not quite bud stage, that tested 206 RFV and 221 RFQ about like expected. The lower part of the landscape measured 16-18". Craig figures it was hurt by frost.

~Got another call telling about alfalfa by Villard that was shorter than that, figured to be hurt earlier by frost.

~Where there are significant plant height difference in the field, it might be useful to dig a few roots of shorter and taller plants and split them to see if there is consistently more root damage in short plants

~Found 3 Clover Leaf Weevil Larva while picking old crop residue out of a sample. They were about 3/16 inch long. Similar to Alfalfa Weevil but CLW have tan/brown head not black like AWL.

5/17 ~More buds - more harvest decisions. Note the Little Rock/Buckman sample does not have buds yet; so consider YOUR field conditions. For some feed targets, harvest might start before buds show.

~Could this crop test better? Dan Undersander reminded readers in a recent Midwest Forage "Clippings Newsletter" that when the flower bud forms at the top of the stem, there will be no more growth in terms of new leaves being add to the stem. Growth from here on is from stem elongation between leaf attachments points on the stem. Some flower buds may form at leaf nodes below the top buds. Where the crop growth has been limited by cooler weather earlier, or by frost, or by dry soil... it be that we have a higher leaf to stem ratio. In fields where the lab test is consistently higher than the PEAQ chart would indicate based on height and maturity stage, this could be a reason to think it really might be better. It sure seems like some fields have been growing slowly this year.

5/21 ~The Weather.....

I'm guessing that for a lot of people now, at least in most of Benton and Stearns County and south, harvest decisions for milk cow hay are pretty much driven by finding a weather opportunity that works for their harvest plans. There are some places where buds are just starting to form. Farther north in Morrison County some hay may be farther behind. It's not all the same.

~Insects

I was at a farm 3-4 miles north of Albany today. In one field, I found 8 Alfalfa Weevil Larva in about 12 sweeps with a net. This is first crop hay that will be cut sometime within the next week. We'd like to think all the Alfalfa Weevil Larva (AWL) will be destroyed in first crop harvest, but not a good bet. It will be important watch second crop regrowth for AWL problems. Found a couple Potato Leafhoppers PLH and several plant bugs in the same set of sweets.

This is NOT a reason to routinely spray a lot of fields. It IS a reason to keep an eye on second crop from first shoots through harvest ... and follow recommended thresholds for treatment decisions.

Website users and try a search for "Minnesota Extension Alfalfa Weevil Threshold". A direct link to one resource is:

http://www.extension.umn.edu/forages/pdfs/alfalfa_insects_forage_days_09.pdf

For Nathan, Laura and I, in our counties, you're welcome to call for printed info.

I know many agronomy ag business folk, crop consultants and others or working with folks on this.

5/25 My guess is fields we haven't gotten info from on May 21 or prior have been cut.

~Insects: AWL - PLH - PB

Getting additional reports of places where Alfalfa Weevil Larva and/or Potato Leafhoppers are above thresholds for spraying. I've commonly seen Plant Bugs in the net also. Thresholds for PLH and PB can combine. That means for example PLH at half threshold and PB at half threshold can mean treat.

~Had a call from a colleague about an alfalfa field not greening up... plenty of moisture, my first thought is check for AWL.

~Fertilizer - depending on your normal or past scheduling of annual fertilizer applications, consider whether fields are firm enough to get on with fertilizer not after 1st cutting. With moderately coarse and coarse textured soil, apply 25 pounds of sulfur per acre. Use soil test as a basis for Phosphorus Potassium and Boron rates.

Have a safe and meaningful Memorial Day Weekend.

Please work toward a SAFE hay harvest and with other work and activities.