

Comments:

Please make SAFETY a priority along with aiming to put up palatable hay or haylage feed.

5/11/09 There is some variation around the area. Consider what your own fields are like. Many people are making good progress with planting and may find some time to get haying equipment and plans ready. We can probably count on the weather to be a factor. With Memorial Day observed on May 25, the Memorial Day/Last Week of May might be a harvest target for some of the crop.

IN 2007 on May 22 Hay measured as follows Stocker 16, Lambrecht 17, Dreier 18, Hoen 21, Krause 16, Winkelman 12.5, Ackerman 13.5, O&S 13.5. That puts this year's crop growth ahead of last year at this point. Last year was probably a week or so behind what we might think about as normal.

5/18/09 Nathan Winter shared that tallest stems in McLeod County ranged from 16 to 21 inches and in Meeker County 11 to 21 inches. He noted some side hills that were short and dry conditions might be a limiting factor. He though Meeker got a little more rain last Friday than McLeod.

The Center Pivot was running on the sandy soil at the Winkelman farm this morning. Cold weather may also be a limiting factor in the limited growth we have seen since last Thursday. We got about 0.6 inches of rain in Foley on Friday.

As usual, there are variations among fields and people need to consider how fields are developing related to their feed needs. Weather forecasts generally are not very accurate 10-14 days out, particularly related to precipitation. Some years we get some good hay making weather around the last week of May, followed by some rainy weather. "Normal" seems tougher to find with a lot of things.

5/19/08 Buds are starting to show up in taller fields. Some cooperators say limited soil moisture may be limiting growth. Irrigation is being used on some sandy soil. Field and Farm Variation is important to consider, along with feed needs and strategies on individual farms, and of course again, watching the weather, and considering past experience with crop and livestock.

5/21/09 Laura Kieser reports that some hay cutting is underway in Scott County as makes her rounds today. It's probably time for some farms to think about the kind of quality they want and consider weather opportunities for making hay. Nathan Winter reported 20-23 inch stems at the McLeod site and 20-25 inch stems at the Meeker site. I see 3 to 5 inch variations as I walk across two of the fields I'm sampling in Benton. This might be due to moisture limitations starting to show up or fall harvest/winter stress. Where there is reason to think winter stress reduced root reserves, letting the crop get more mature might be helpful for second crop regrowth, but people will also think about quality and any concerns with delaying harvest schedules through the season. Some cooperators with hay moving into the 22 to 26 inch range with buds starting to show up are looking ahead to next week for harvest possibilities. 169 Lab RFV at O&S Dairy is probably low and I'd guess the field to be more like the PEAQ estimate at 190-195 similar to results at other similar fields.

5/26/09 Fields I'm sampling in Benton County are easily identified in the bud stage. Nathan Winter reported 19 to 27 inch stems at the McLeod Site and 21-31 inch stems at the Meeker Site. I measured 20 to 28 inch stems at one Benton Site. This makes it more difficult to predict what the whole field will be like in the feed bunk. Some of the variations will be mixed in harvest, storage, feeding. Harvest will likely get underway today or tomorrow on a couple of the Benton County Fields. I stopped to look at another field along my route on this morning - seeded under an oat crop last year chopped for oatlage, nice stand, 24 inches, just starting to bud with PEAQ estimate at 186 and the lab test came back at 200. Some people might take what they can if the weather is good for harvesting this week, and let the second crop make use of the next good rain we get. Roericks near upsala appears to be a little behind other samples. People farther north in other areas of Morrison County may just be starting to see buds in hay fields.



For information on using and interpreting Scissors-Cut and PEAQ data go to

<http://www1.umn.edu/mfgc/scissors.htm>

For more information related to the Central MN project call

Dan Martens at 1-800-964-4929 - Stearns, Benton and Morrison County Extension

Nathan Winter - McLeod-Meeker Extension Office 320-587-0770;

Laura Kieser - Scott-Carver Extension, 952-5410

A Recorded report can be heard by calling Info U at 1-800-964-4929. When the systems answers enter 5081.

Laura Kieser also posts a Carver/Scott message at 952-466-5300.

A live report is made on KASM 1150 AM about 6:40 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday Mornings.

Efforts are made to share Information with KLTF 960 AM Little Falls and other local stations,

KDUZ 1260 AM Hutchinson, KLFD 1410 AM Litchfield, KRWC 1360 AM Buffalo

A spreadsheet summary that includes ADF/NDF should be posted at

www.extension.umn.edu/cropenews

This is updated if the webmaster gets to it.

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Others will be listed as we get information