

2017 Alfalfa Quality Watch



Quality Information from 5/22/17

There is considerable variability in alfalfa plant growth within fields this year due to winter injury. You will notice that the Scissors Cut Lab analysis is showing much higher fiber (lower alfalfa quality) than what would be determined using the PEAQ measurement. My thought is that alfalfa started growing early this year and plants are older than what we would normally see at this point in the growing season. Look for opportunities to harvest high-quality alfalfa forage in areas away from Lake Michigan the week of May 22.

On average we lose roughly 3-5 RFV points per day depending on temperatures. PEAQ and Scissor Cut RFVs are about 15-20 RFV points higher than forage coming out of storage due to respiration and dry matter losses. Alfalfa fields sampled are either 2nd or 3rd year production fields.

Quality measurements will be taken again on May 25. For more information contact Mike Ballweg at (920) 459-5910. Future results will be posted on our UW-Extension website: <http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/>

Thanks to our sponsors: Adell Coop, Kettle Lakes Coop and the Sheboygan County Forage Council Board: Nathan Casper, Matt Gartman, Brad Laack, Cody Mullikin, Matthew Ramel, Jory Stapel and Tom Wilterdink.

Take time to be safe.

Mike

Location	Scissors Cut Analysis				Field PEAQ Estimates		
Sample Date <i>May 22, 2017</i>	CP %	ADF %	NDF %	RFV	Maturity	Plant Ht (inches)	PEAQ RFV
Batavia	22.11	27.46	36.53	172	Early Bud	26	176
Glenbeulah	19.56	31.58	41.64	144	Late Veg.	22	200
Cedar Grove	-	-	-	-	Vegetative	18 – 23	224 - 195
Hingham - East	21.06	30.98	41.61	145	Early Bud	25	181
Hingham - West	21.84	29.83	41.11	149	Late Veg.	24	190
Town of Wilson	22.65	30.38	41.28	147	Vegetative	19	217
Town of Mosel	-	-	-	-	Vegetative	18	224

From link below is the Alfalfa Quality PEAQ chart. With this chart and a yardstick you are able to measure the alfalfa quality of individual fields on your farm.

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/files/2014/01/PEAQTable.pdf>
