

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Field Crop Update Week of May 24, 2022

1. First Cutting Forage Quality
2. Pest and disease monitoring

1. First Cutting Forage Quality

*This is our **fourth and final** week of monitoring 1st cutting for quality in 2022. If you are not familiar with our procedures, we use alfalfa height to predict Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) for alfalfa, alfalfa/grass mixed and grass stands.*

Alfalfa height has proven to be a reliable indicator of NDF values in the field. Here are numbers that are helpful when using alfalfa and grass height as an indicator of NDF content. In general:

Begin cutting 100% grass stands when nearby alfalfa is 14” tall to achieve the desired 50% NDF.
Begin cutting 50/50 alfalfa/grass stands when nearby alfalfa is 22” tall for the desired 44% NDF.
Begin cutting 100% alfalfa stands when alfalfa is 28” tall for the desired 40% NDF.

*To achieve the desired NDF it is necessary to **begin cutting at NDF values slightly lower than the desired value** assuming some harvest and storage losses which the above alfalfa height values reflect. For example 28 inch tall alfalfa is closer to 38% NDF but you will need to start then to end up at 40% NDF.*

Predicted days to cut are based on daily NDF increases for grasses of 1% point, 50/50 mixed stands of .8% points and alfalfa of .5% point. Typically, NDF increases about 0.8 to 1.2/day for grasses expecting the lower end of that range in cooler weather and the higher end in warm. Alfalfa NDF increases about 0.4 to 0.7/day again figuring the lower end of that range with cool temperatures and the higher in warm. See the following fact sheet for more details: [Predicting Spring Fiber Content of Forages](#) (folks receiving the snail mail version of our First Cutting Forage Quality Update will receive this fact sheet in print).

Below is this week’s chart, but you can use the location and elevation as a guide to conditions that may be similar to your own.*
Always check your fields to verify your heights and conditions!

If you haven’t cut yet, chances are you’re somewhere within 10 days of doing so for peak quality:

County	Town	Road	Elev. (ft)	Alfalfa ht (in)	Estimated % NDF			Predicted Cut Date		
					Grass	50/50 Mix	Alfalfa	Grass	50/50 Mix	Alfalfa
Chenango	Bainbridge	I. Settlement Rd	1660	20	54.28	41.432	32.5	5/18/22	5/26/22	6/3/22
Chenango	Greene	Co Rd 32	950	24	57.7344	44.8864	35.3	5/15/22	5/21/22	5/28/22
Chenango	N. Norwich	Co Rd 23	1092	24	57.7344	44.8864	35.3	5/15/22	5/21/22	5/28/22
Chenango	Otselic	B. Brown Rd	1220	<i>Missed this wk</i>						
Chenango	Oxford	NY-12	984	23	56.8708	44.0228	34.6	5/16/22	5/22/22	5/29/22
Chenango	Sherburne	NY-80	1150	cut						
Chenango	Smyrna	Co Rd 20	1190	18	52.5528	39.7048	31.1	5/20/22	5/28/22	6/5/22
Fulton	Johnstown	NY-67	715	21	55.1436	42.2956	33.2	5/17/22	5/25/22	6/1/22
Fulton	Oppenheim	Kennedy Rd	778	21	55.1436	42.2956	33.2	5/17/22	5/25/22	6/1/22
Herkimer	Columbia	Kingdom Rd	1598	21	55.1436	42.2956	33.2	5/17/22	5/25/22	6/1/22
Herkimer	Danube	Johnny Cake Rd	620	22	56.0072	43.1592	33.9	5/16/22	5/24/22	5/31/22
Herkimer	Danube	Travis Road	1489	22	56.0072	43.1592	33.9	5/16/22	5/24/22	5/31/22
Herkimer	Fairfield	Hardscrabble Rd	1308	21	55.1436	42.2956	33.2	5/17/22	5/25/22	6/1/22
Herkimer	Germ Flatts	Kidney Rd	403	24	57.7344	44.8864	35.3	5/15/22	5/21/22	5/28/22
Herkimer	Schuyler	Carder Lane Rd	449	26	59.4616	46.6136	36.7	5/13/22	5/19/22	5/25/22
Herkimer	Stark	Puskerenko Rd	1555	22	56.0072	43.1592	33.9	5/16/22	5/24/22	5/31/22
Herkimer	Warren	Atswell Rd	1551	21	55.1436	42.2956	33.2	5/17/22	5/25/22	6/1/22
Herkimer	Warren	Parmwood Rd	1617	23	56.8708	44.0228	34.6	5/16/22	5/22/22	5/29/22
Madison	Fenner	Larkin Rd	1613	23	56.8708	44.0228	34.6	5/16/22	5/22/22	5/29/22
Madison	Lenox	Palmer Rd	1266	25	58.598	45.75	36	5/14/22	5/20/22	5/27/22
Madison	Madison	Lake Moraine Rd	1175	26	59.4616	46.6136	36.7	5/13/22	5/19/22	5/25/22

County	Town	Road	Elev. (ft)	Alfalfa ht (in)	Estimated % NDF			Predicted Cut Date		
					Grass	50/50 Mix	Alfalfa	Grass	50/50 Mix	Alfalfa
Madison	Nelson	Eaton Brook Rd	1576	19	53.4164	40.5684	31.8	5/19/22	5/27/22	6/4/22
Madison	Oneida	Middle Rd	551	23	56.8708	44.0228	34.6	5/16/22	5/22/22	5/29/22
Madison	Oneida	Mt Hope Ave	819	26	59.4616	46.6136	36.7	5/13/22	5/19/22	5/25/22
Madison	Stockbridge	Co Hwy 35	631	26	59.4616	46.6136	36.7	5/13/22	5/19/22	5/25/22
Madison	Sullivan	Clock Rd	821	28	61.1888	48.3408	38.1	5/11/22	5/17/22	5/22/22
Madison	Sullivan	Tuscarora Rd	433	28	61.1888	48.3408	38.1	5/11/22	5/17/22	5/22/22
Montgomery	Amsterdam	Swart Hill Road	546	28	61.1888	48.3408	38.1	5/11/22	5/17/22	5/22/22
Montgomery	Florida	Cemetery Drive	566	28	61.1888	48.3408	38.1	5/11/22	5/17/22	5/22/22
Montgomery	Florida	Youngs Corners Rd	696	cut						
Montgomery	Glen	Van Epps Rd	522	19	53.4164	40.5684	31.8	5/19/22	5/27/22	6/4/22
Montgomery	Glen	Youngs Corners Rd	692	cut						
Montgomery	Hallsville	Freybush Road	597	19	53.4164	40.5684	31.8	5/19/22	5/27/22	6/4/22
Montgomery	Mohawk	Route 5	279	30	62.916	50.068	39.5	5/10/22	5/15/22	5/20/22
Otsego	Cherry Valley	Keller Road	1379	20	54.28	41.432	32.5	5/18/22	5/26/22	6/3/22
Otsego	Milford	Co Hwy 33	1211	21	55.1436	42.2956	33.2	5/17/22	5/25/22	6/1/22
Otsego	Otsego	Co Rd 26	1236	23	56.8708	44.0228	34.6	5/16/22	5/22/22	5/29/22
Otsego	Pittsfield	Co Rd 13	1246	24	57.7344	44.8864	35.3	5/15/22	5/21/22	5/28/22
Saratoga	Ballston	NY-67	478	cut						
Saratoga	Charlton	Dawson Road	505	28	61.1888	48.3408	38.1	5/11/22	5/17/22	5/22/22
Saratoga	Northumberland	Callahan Road	276	29	62.0524	49.2044	38.8	5/10/22	5/16/22	5/21/22
Saratoga	Northumberland	Rugg Road	305	cut						

County	Town	Road	Elev. (ft)	Alfalfa ht (in)	Estimated % NDF			Predicted Cut Date		
					Grass	50/50 Mix	Alfalfa	Grass	50/50 Mix	Alfalfa
Saratoga	Saratoga	County Road 70	456	cut						
Saratoga	Saratoga	State Route 29	207	cut						
Saratoga	Saratoga	Wagmans Ridge Rd	324	cut						
Saratoga	Stillwater	County Road 67	365	25	58.598	45.75	36	5/14/22	5/20/22	5/27/22
Schoharie	Cobleskill	Lake Road	1374	cut						
Schoharie	Cobleskill	Warnerville Cutoff	933	26	59.4616	46.6136	36.7	5/13/22	5/19/22	5/25/22
Schoharie	Middleburgh	Amelia Lane	626	cut						
Schoharie	Sharon Springs	Route 20	1417	20	54.28	41.432	32.5	5/18/22	5/26/22	6/3/22
Schoharie	Wright	Abrams Road	935	28	61.1888	48.3408	38.1	5/11/22	5/17/22	5/22/22

**Alfalfa measured by Dave Balbian, Craig Brown, Ashley McFarland, Erik Smith, Ken Smith, Rich Taber, and Nicole Tommell*

Even those with 100% alfalfa stands in slower-growing areas should be ready to harvest by this time week. We began May a few weeks behind last year's development, **but with the favorable weather, we've completely caught up to last year's schedule.**

Winter forages are heading out, so please check on your fields' development to ensure you're able to harvest.

2. Pest and disease monitoring

Still no leafhoppers in alfalfa, but **I have seen some alfalfa weevil damage in a few fields** that were farther along. Going forward I will monitor several fields around the region for this pest.

This year we will again monitor for several pests of corn using pheromone-baited traps, including black cutworm (BCW), western bean cutworm (WBC), and true armyworm (TAW). We monitor BCW and TAW populations first, then transition to BCW and TAW through the middle part of the season, and we may eventually track fall armyworm (FAW) at some point this year as well. So stay tuned.

This week, all of our traps yielded BCW, but TAW populations are still thankfully AWOL. The last of our traps went up this week, so the first results from those will be reported next week:

	Trap checked:	2-6 May		9-13 May		16-20 May		23-27 May	
County	Town/Village	Black Cutworm	True Armyworm	BCW	TAW	BCW	TAW	BCW	TAW
Madison	Oneida	2	0	8	0	12	0	27	0
Herkimer	Poland							6	0
Montgomery	Canajoharie	3	0	0	0	1	0	8	0
Saratoga	W. Charlton					2	1	14	0
Schoharie	Schoharie			0	0	0	0	1	0
Otsego	Index								
Chenango	Brisben	0	0	0	0	7	0	15	0

As winter grains such as barley and wheat begin to flower, now would be the time to decide whether to protect crops from fusarium head blight. According to the Fusarium Risk Tool (<https://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>), the risk in our region is currently low, except for perhaps eastern Fulton County, where the risk is medium if your crops are currently flowering:

