



## 2025 Forage Quality Scissors Cut Results Dairy Prime Now!

Warm wet weather this week resulted in grass increasing an average of 5.5 inches (1"-9") and legumes up 5 inches (3"-7"). Fiber content (NDF) decreased slightly, which we have seen before early in May, but grasses still averaged 51.5%, just above the start harvesting target of NDF of 50%.

Mixed stands at 44% NDF, are also at target range, while pure legume fields at 32%NDF are a week or more away from target.

**Grasses and Mixed stands are at target dairy quality. Beef producers can wait a week or two for most of their needs. Legume fields are still more than a week away from dairy quality.**

Fiber Digestibility remained about the same this week, continuing in a favorable range, while TDN ticked up a few points.

**Grass harvest is already started around the county, and dairy producers should be harvesting core grass fields as quickly as possible.**

### A few things to keep in mind:

- **Mow Wide** - Mow into as wide a swath as possible to encourage rapid wilting, the longer it takes to dry down the more energy is lost to respiration. Considering the forecast, doing everything to encourage rapid drying will be important to squeeze harvests into tight windows.
- **Don't Scalp (dirt isn't forage)**- Shoot for a 4" cutting height. Keeping wilting forage off the ground helps speed drying and reduces rakes and pickups bringing up excess soil (aka ash). Regrowth will also be quicker.
- **Pay attention to forage moisture (aka Dry Matter)** – For bunkers shoot for 35% to 40% DM, and for baleage between 50% and 60%.
- **Density matters** – for bunkers, make sure you have adequate packing capacity, the faster the silage is coming in the more tons you need on the bunk, for baleage dryer forage packs better, strive to make bales as dense as possible.
- **Cover/Wrap quickly** – Get bunkers filled and cover as quickly as possible, wrap bales within 3 or 4 hours. Oxygen is the enemy of good silage, cover it quick and keep birds and rodents from spoiling the seal.

Stay safe and enjoy the hay harvest season.

Our next sample day will be Tuesday May 20.

*Estimated days from 5/13 to reach target quality for classes of cattle*

|        | Dairy     | Beef         |                  |               |                |
|--------|-----------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
|        |           | Growing Calf | Growing Yearling | Lactating Cow | Mature Dry Cow |
| Grass  | NOW       | NOW          | 7 -14 days       | 14+ days      | 14+ days       |
| Mixed  | NOW       | NOW          | 7 -14 days       | 14+ days      | 14+ days       |
| Legume | 7-14 days | 7-14 days    | 10-14 days       | 14+ days      | 14+ days       |




**Dairy One**  
Forage Laboratory

Special thanks to Dairy One for providing the sample analysis



# 2025 Scissors Cut Results

| Delaware County Scissor Cut Results  |             |      |                  | May 6 |      |         |      | May 13 |      |         |      |
|--|-------------|------|------------------|-------|------|---------|------|--------|------|---------|------|
| Farm   | Town        | Elev | Species          | Ht    | NDF  | NDFD 24 | TDN  | Ht     | NDF  | NDFD 24 | TDN  |
| Darling  | Andes       | 1580 | Clov(40%)/grass  | 8/11  | 43.4 | 64      | 66   | 11/16  | 48.5 | 69      | 64   |
| Eisele   | Andes       | 1590 | Orchardgrass     | 12    | 55.2 | 69      | 59   | 16     | 52.7 | 67      | 63   |
| Gladstone  | Andes       | 1960 | RClov (35%)/Orch | 8/17  | 57.1 | 68      | 59   | 13/22  | 45.7 | 58      | 66   |
| Darling  | Andes       | 2200 | Red Clover       | 10    | 29   | 52      | 68   | 13     | 30.2 | 55      | 69   |
| Gladstone  | Andes       | 2250 | Mixed grass      | 10    | 49.7 | 68      | 63   | 11     | 53.2 | 66      | 64   |
| Rossley  | Bovina      | 1680 | Mixed grass      | 10    | 49.2 | 68      | 61   | 14     | 43.7 | 67      | 66   |
| Brannen  | Bovina      | 1840 | Mixed grass      | -     | -    | -       | -    | 11     | 52.2 | 66      | 64   |
| Mattson  | Colchester  | 1100 | Alf(80%)/TFesc   | 18/18 | 40.1 | 51      | 61   | 23/26  | 41.7 | 56      | 64   |
| Cerosaletti  | Davenport   | 1290 | Alfalfa          | 13    | 26.2 | 61      | 65   | 19     | 29.2 | 60      | 67   |
| Mushkoday  | Delhi       | 1320 | Alfalfa          | 16    | 22.1 | 57      | 67   | 22     | 24.6 | 52      | 69   |
| Frisbee  | Delhi       | 1380 | Mixed grass      | 16    | 54.4 | 64      | 61   | 21     | 52   | 64      | 62   |
| Rama   | Delhi       | 1380 | Mixed grass      | 17    | 49.7 | 66      | 66   | cut    | -    | -       | -    |
| Sullivan   | Delhi       | 1430 | Orchrdgrass      | 18    | 54.7 | 71      | 59   | 22     | 55   | 71      | 65   |
| Shephard   | Delhi       | 2050 | Mixed Grass      | 20    | 55.1 | 66      | 61   | 24     | 50.3 | 68      | 65   |
| Buel   | Franklin    | 1260 | Alf (50%)/Orch   | 13/20 | 44.6 | 66      | 63   | 17/26  | 41.9 | 64      | 67   |
| Grant  | Franklin    | 1650 | Mixed grass      | 20    | 54.3 | 72      | 62   | 26     | 48   | 75      | 65   |
| Taggart  | Franklin    | 1720 | Mixed grass      | 18    | 49.1 | 75      | 64   | cut    | -    | -       | -    |
| DiBenedetto  | Halcott     | 1730 | Orchardgrass     | 16    | 55.6 | 72      | 61   | 22     | 47.2 | 70      | 65   |
| Scobie   | Hamden      | 1480 | mixed grass      | 10    | 47.8 | 67      | 63   | 13     | 43.4 | 69      | 70   |
| Potter   | Hamden      | 2100 | Mixed grass      | 9     | 53.2 | 72      | 62   | 14     | 48.5 | 72      | 64   |
| Hillriegel   | Hardenburgh | 1700 | Orchardgrass     | 15    | 51.4 | 69      | 59   | 22     | 46.2 | 69      | 66   |
| Haynes   | Kortright   | 1870 | Orchardgrass     | 19    | 54.6 | 71      | 57   | 25     | 56.1 | 69      | 62   |
| Boest  | Kortright   | 1948 | Orchardgrass     | 14    | 48.2 | 73      | 66   | 22     | 50.6 | 73      | 65   |
| Hager  | Kortright   | 2000 | Tall Fescue      | 13    | 41.9 | 80      | 70   | 19     | 44.6 | 79      | 69   |
| Scott  | Masonville  | 1620 | Reed Canarygrass | 17    | 52.3 | 70      | 64   | 24     | 50.8 | 70      | 64   |
| Keator   | Meredith    | 1600 | Tall Fescue      | 13    | 52.3 | 66      | 63   | 19     | 49.2 | 74      | 62   |
| Jurgens  | Meredith    | 2020 | Mixed grass      | 14    | 55   | 74      | 58   | 20     | 52.6 | 74      | 68   |
| Cieri  | Meredith    | 2300 | Orchardgrass     | 14    | 45.4 | 71      | 66   | 19     | 48.6 | 76      | 67   |
| Gray   | Middletown  | 2020 | Reed Canarygrass | 14    | 50.2 | 74      | 60   | cut    | -    | -       | -    |
| Elliot   | Middletown  | 2060 | RCanary/Orch     | 16    | 50.8 | 71      | 62   | 22     | 48.7 | 75      | 64   |
| Coombe   | Neversink   | 1030 | Orchardgrass     | 13    | 48.5 | 71      | 64   | 20     | 46.1 | 68      | 66   |
| Coombe   | Neversink   | 1340 | Tall Fescue      | 12    | 50.2 | 71      | 63   | 20     | 40.1 | 72      | 69   |
| Coombe   | Neversink   | 1420 | Mixed grass      | 11    | 42   | 76      | 68   | 16     | 53.6 | 69      | 62   |
| Perry  | Roxbury     | 1720 | Orchardgrass     | 14    | 52.6 | 69      | 64   | 21     | 50.9 | 70      | 66   |
| Gockel   | Roxbury     | 1890 | Orchardgrass     | 14    | 56.3 | 72      | 60   | 23     | 52.4 | 77      | 64   |
| Albano   | Roxbury     | 1950 | Mixed grass      | 13    | 47.8 | 75      | 66   | 20     | 49.8 | 70      | 64   |
| Kuhn   | Roxbury     | 1980 | M Foxtail        | 18    | 52.6 | 58      | 68   | 25     | 55.3 | 55      | 66   |
| Johnson  | Sidney      | 1030 | Alfalfa          | 18    | 32.6 | 55      | 63   | 25     | 29   | 48      | 65   |
| Johnson  | Sidney      | 1070 | Orchardgrass     | 20    | 53.3 | 72      | 64   | 27     | 53.6 | 71      | 65   |
| Hanselman  | Stamford    | 1490 | Alfalfa          | 15    | 27.2 | 60      | 67   | 22     | 23.6 | 57      | 69   |
| Martin   | Stamford    | 1560 | Alf(35%)/Orch    | 14/19 | 52.5 | 73      | 59   | 18/26  | 50.8 | 72      | 67   |
| Deysenroth   | Stamford    | 1610 | Mixed grass      | 19    | 46.7 | 72      | 60   | 26     | 54.8 | 73      | 64   |
| Melvin   | Stamford    | 2020 | Clov/orch        | 8/18  | 54.6 | 68      | 58   | 11/23  | 55.9 | 70      | 67   |
| McClure  | Stamford    | 2080 | Alf/orch         | 14/19 | 37.7 | 62      | 63   | 18/24  | 36.9 | 65      | 63   |
| Trovato  | Stamford    | 2200 | grass            | 8/19  | 56.7 | 74      | 58   | 13/26  | 56   | 67      | 62   |
| LaTourette   | Tompkins    | 1220 | mixed grass      | 16    | 57.2 | 70      | 61   | 20     | 54.2 | 74      | 63   |
| Wickham  | Walton      | 1240 | orchardgrass     | 20    | 54.2 | 74      | 61   | 26     | 54.8 | 69      | 67   |
| Marsiglio  | Walton      | 1720 | Orchardgrass     | 8     | 42.3 | 71      | 66   | 12     | 48.3 | 72      | 66   |
|  Precision Feed Management<br><small>Watershed Agricultural Council<br/>Cooperative Extension Delaware County</small> |             |      | Av. Grass        | 15.2  | 51.5 | 70.6    | 62.5 | 20.8   | 50.1 | 69.9    | 65.0 |
|  |             |      | Av Mixed         | -     | 45.7 | 65.1    | 61.4 | -      | 47.2 | 67.0    | 65.1 |
|  |             |      | Av Alfalfa       | 15.3  | 27.4 | 57.0    | 66.0 | 20.5   | 27.3 | 54.4    | 67.8 |

| NDF Goals for Dairy Cattle Forage |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Grass hay and silage              | 48 – 55% |
| MMG hay & silage                  | 40 – 50% |
| MML hay & silage                  | 38 – 45% |
| Legume hay & silage               | 36 – 42% |

| TDN Goals for Beef Cattle Forage |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Growing Calf (2lb ADG)           | 70 - 72 |
| Growing Yearling (2lb ADG)       | 64 - 66 |
| Lactating Beef Cow               | 60 - 64 |
| Mature Dry Cow                   | 52 - 55 |



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