



2025 Forage Quality Scissors Cut Results Wet Weather Woes

Hay continued to grow rapidly this week, grass and legumes both increasing about 5 inches (1"-10"). Fiber content (NDF) increased rapidly (over 1 point/day) with grass averaging 58.6%. **Grass and mixed stands are now past prime dairy quality but are still in recommended range for growing and lactating beef cows. Legume fields averaging 35.4% NDF will be at prime quality target of 40% NDF this week.**

Estimated days from 5/20 to reach target quality for classes of cattle

	Dairy	Beef			
		Growing Calf	Growing Yearling	Lactating Cow	Mature Dry Cow
Grass	PAST	PAST	NOW	NOW	14 days
Mixed	PAST	PAST	NOW	NOW	14 days
Legume	5-7 days	5-7 days	10-14 days	10-14 days	14 days

Grasses heads are beginning to appear and Fiber Digestibility and TDN declined as you would expect with advanced maturity. Wet weather is preventing harvest on many fields, and first cutting is behind normal for the date and crop conditions. Corn planting is also delayed with farms struggling with both planting and harvest tasks to complete. Short- and longer-term forecasts are for continued above normal precipitation, so farms will need to make difficult adjustments.

- **Manage Storage:** There will be a lot of lower quality first cut haycrop. You may want to consider how you will segregate this from what we hope will be better second and third cut harvests. Well planned storage will help you have access to the feeds you want when you need them.
- **Capture Second Cut Quality:** The fields that have been harvested are rapidly regrowing. We recommend a 30-day harvest interval for grass fields. Fiber content will be high with longer intervals, even though it won't have heads. We would recommend harvesting second-cut on time, even if you still have not completed all your first.
- **Pay attention to forage moisture (aka Dry Matter)** – For bunkers shoot for 35% to 40% DM, and for baleage between 50% and 60%. You may be able to cheat with slightly higher moisture to squeeze things in between showers, but remember silage that is too wet will have poor fermentation.
- **Mow Wide** - Mow into as wide a swath as possible to encourage rapid wilting, the longer it takes to dry down the more energy (sugar) is lost to respiration. Considering the forecast, doing everything to encourage rapid drying will be important to squeeze harvests into tight windows. You may even want to ted for silage to save a few hours off wilting time.

Stay safe and hoping for some sunshine.


Our next sample day will be Tuesday May 27.



Special thanks to Dairy One for providing the sample analysis



2025 Scissors Cut Results

Delaware County Scissor Cut Results				May 13				May 20			
Farm	Town	Elev	Species	Ht	NDF	NDFD 24	TDN	Ht	NDF	NDFD 24	TDN
Darling	Andes	1580	Clov(40%)/grass	11/16	48.5	69	64	12/23	46.7	66	65
Eisele	Andes	1590	Orchardgrass	16	52.7	67	63	23	61	61	64
Gladstone	Andes	1960	RClov (35%)/Orch	13/22	45.7	58	66	15/26	43.8	60	63
Darling	Andes	2200	Red Clover	13	30.2	55	69	18	33.9	61	62
Gladstone	Andes	2250	Mixed grass	11	53.2	66	64	13	58.5	63	64
Rossley	Bovina	1680	Mixed grass	14	43.7	67	66	18	55.4	64	67
Brannen	Bovina	1840	Mixed grass	11	52.2	66	64	15	60.6	62	65
Mattson	Colchester	1100	Alf(80%)/TFesc	23/26	41.7	56	64	29/34	44	52	60
Cerosaletti	Davenport	1290	Alfalfa	19	29.2	60	67	24	31.7	58	62
Mushkoday	Delhi	1320	Alfalfa	22	24.6	52	69	30	30.3	51	64
Frisbee	Delhi	1380	Mixed grass	21	52	64	62	30	64.5	67	62
Sullivan	Delhi	1430	Orchrdgrass	22	55	71	65	30	58.5	63	65
Shephard	Delhi	2050	Mixed Grass	24	50.3	68	65	32	58	59	65
Buel	Franklin	1260	Alf (50%)/Orch	17/26	41.9	64	67	25/36	62.1	59	62
Grant	Franklin	1650	Mixed grass	26	48	75	65	hrvstd	-	-	-
DiBenedetto	Halcott	1730	Orchardgrass	22	47.2	70	65	29	59.8	68	62
Scobie	Hamden	1480	mixed grass	13	43.4	69	70	15	52.3	66	67
Potter	Hamden	2100	Mixed grass	14	48.5	72	64	20	58.2	65	66
Hillriegel	Hardenburgh	1700	Orchardgrass	22	46.2	69	66	28	62.4	62	59
Haynes	Kortright	1870	Orchardgrass	25	56.1	69	62	29	63.8	67	64
Boest	Kortright	1948	Orchardgrass	22	50.6	73	65	hrvstd	-	-	-
Hager	Kortright	2000	Tall Fescue	19	44.6	79	69	hrvstd	-	-	-
Scott	Masonville	1620	Reed Canarygrass	24	50.8	70	64	29	55.9	64	60
Keator	Meredith	1600	Tall Fescue	19	49.2	74	62	27	55.6	64	60
Jurgens	Meredith	2020	Mixed grass	20	52.6	74	68	28	61.1	68	60
Cieri	Meredith	2300	Orchardgrass	19	48.6	76	67	24	55.4	69	66
Elliot	Middletown	2060	RCanary/Orch	22	48.7	75	64	28	54.4	67	62
Coombe	Neversink	1030	Orchardgrass	20	46.1	68	66	27	58.3	60	65
Coombe	Neversink	1340	Tall Fescue	20	40.1	72	69	24	56.4	64	63
Coombe	Neversink	1420	Mixed grass	16	53.6	69	62	18	45.8	72	69
Perry	Roxbury	1720	Orchardgrass	21	50.9	70	66	27	62.2	63	64
Gockel	Roxbury	1890	Orchardgrass	23	52.4	77	64	24	59.7	64	63
Albano	Roxbury	1950	Mixed grass	20	49.8	70	64	27	52.9	68	64
Kuhn	Roxbury	1980	M Foxtail	25	55.3	55	66	33	65.5	54	61
Johnson	Sidney	1030	Alfalfa	25	29	48	65	30	43.7	49	58
Johnson	Sidney	1070	Orchardgrass	27	53.6	71	65	34	64.2	63	68
Hanselman	Stamford	1490	Alfalfa	22	23.6	57	69	26	37.6	55	64
Martin	Stamford	1560	Alf(35%)/Orch	18/26	50.8	72	67	23/32	46.1	61	61
Deysenroth	Stamford	1610	Mixed grass	26	54.8	73	64	32	57.1	67	59
Melvin	Stamford	2020	Clov/orch	11/23	55.9	70	67	16/30	49.4	59	59
McClure	Stamford	2080	Alf/orch	18/24	36.9	65	63	23/30	44.5	67	64
Trovato	Stamford	2200	grass	13/26	56	67	62	18/31	61.5	63	62
LaTourette	Tompkins	1220	mixed grass	20	54.2	74	63	24	58.7	64	67
Wickham	Walton	1240	orchardgrass	26	54.8	69	67	32	61.5	57	65
Marsiglio	Walton	1720	Orchardgrass	12	48.3	72	66	18	57.5	65	65
		Av. Grass		20.8	50.1	69.9	65.0	26.5	58.6	64.1	63.8
		Av Mixed		-	47.2	67.0	65.1	-	48.1	60.6	62.0
		Av Alfalfa		20.5	27.3	54.4	67.8	22.2	35.4	54.8	62.0

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



Dairy One

Forage Laboratory

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