



2025 Forage Quality Scissors Cut Results

Go, Go, Go – and Find Plan B

More favorable weather this week saw active harvest operations while hay maturity continues to advance slowly. All Grasses are now headed and grew taller quickly as heads advance. As grasses reach the 60% NDF threshold NDF advances more slowly with fiber increasing about ¼ pt per day. Fiber digestibility and TDN decreased slowly as well.

All fields are now past prime for dairy and growing beef cows. TDN values are in the optimum range for Lactating beef cows. Hay harvested for Mature-Dry beef cows can still wait a week or two.

The delayed harvest of first cutting will have many farms looking to fill the need for high quality high digestibility hay crop needs. Also, a late corn planting season will likely have an effect on corn silage yield and quality. It makes sense to assess your inventories now and consider your opportunities to get the forage inventory you want.



Estimated days from 6/3 to reach target quality for classes of cattle

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

- **Maximizes second and third cuttings** – consider opportunity to push later cuttings with some additional fertility and get them cut on time to capture quality.
- **Take care of the Corn Crop** – don't let weeds and pests steal your yield. Scout fields as they emerge to catch any weed escapes or pest damage while you still have options for control. Cut worm damage is showing up in some earlier planting places in New York, so keep an eagle on fields as they emerge. Wet springs can sap your early applied N, so don't skip sidedress N applications where you need them.
- **Summer Annuals like SorghumXSudangrass** might be an option to consider. Late planted corn often will outperform these other annuals, but if planting continues to be delayed, they could be useful. You also might think about planting summer annuals in a runout hay field. You'll get some highly digestible forage and set the field up for a rejuvenating new seeding next year.

Stay safe and keep slugging.



Dairy One
Forage Laboratory

Special thanks to Dairy One for providing the sample analysis



2025 Scissors Cut Results

Delaware County Scissor Cut Results				May 27				June 3			
Farm	Town	Elev	Species	Ht	NDF	NDFD ₂₄	TDN	Ht	NDF	NDFD ₂₄	TDN
Eisele	Andes	1590	Orchardgrass	27	60.8	60	62	cut	63.4	55	64
Gladstone	Andes	1960	RClov(35%)/Orch	18/36	46.9	52	63	28/40	52.1	55	63
Darling	Andes	2200	Red Clover	21	36.3	61	65	cut	39.9	57	65
Evans	Andes	2250	Mixed Grasses	20	54.6	63	66	30	59.8	57	61
Rossley	Bovina	1680	Mixed Grasses	24	59.7	58	62	28	59.1	56	62
Brannen	Bovina	1840	Mixed Grasses	20	57	59	63	24	57.7	56	64
Mattson	Colchester	1100	Alf(80%)/Tfesc	31/40	50.8	54	60	34/46	49.8	53	60
Potter	Hamden	2100	Mixed Grasses	22	55.1	63	67	31	60	57	64
Hillriegel	Hardenburgh	1700	Orchardgrass	32	63.6	58	62	40	61.3	59	63
Haynes	Kortright	1870	Orchardgrass	37	59.9	59	63	45	63.4	56	62
Scott	Masonville	1620	Reed Canary	33	54.8	65	62	42	59.6	60	60
Keator	Meredith	1600	Tall Fescue	36	53.2	61	63	42	57.6	57	61
Cieri	Meredith	2300	Orchardgrass	27	53.5	68	67	34	58.9	61	65
Elliot	Middletown	2060	RCanary/Orch	36	58.3	64	63	46	56.6	57	65
Coombe	Neversink	1420	Mixed Grasses	24	48	64	66	30	51.7	63	66
Johnson	Sidney	1030	Alfalfa	31	35.2	41	63	cut	40.9	49	60
Trovato	Stamford	2200	Mixed Grasses	37	57.3	64	62	26/45	59.8	55	62
LaTourette	Tompkins	1220	Mixed Grasses	32	58.4	62	64	41	61.6	56	60
Marsiglio	Walton	1720	Orchardgrass	21	51.1	59	67	26	52.8	60	62
Av. Grass				31.4	56.9	61.6	64.0	37.3	58.9	57.7	62.7
Av Mixed				-	52.9	57.4	62.2	-	51.0	54.0	61.5
Av Legume				24.4	35.2	48.7	64.0	29.3	40.4	53.0	62.5

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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