



2025 Forage Quality Scissors Cut Results

Cold, Wet, Slow

Cold, wet, weather this week prevented most harvest operations and resulted in hay maturity advancing slowly. We saw a wide range of growth from 2 to 10 inches (average of 5 inches). The good news is that fiber (aNDFom) uncharacteristically decreased almost 2 points, but the range was wide, from a decrease of 8 points to an increase of 13 points. Grasses are headed and legumes are in bud stage. Fiber digestibility and TDN decreased only slightly.

Estimated days from 5/27 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	NOW	NOW	NOW	NOW	14 days

Grass and mixed stands are now past prime dairy quality but are still in recommended range for growing and lactating beef cows. Legume fields will be at the prime quality target this week.

- **Capture Second Cut Quality:** Harvested fields are re-growing nicely. Remember, second cut yields can be almost equal to first on early cut fields. Plan and prepare now to start second cut 30-35 days after first cut, even if all your first cut is not complete. NDF in second cut increases almost as fast as in first cut, even though the plants aren't heading.
- **Push Second Cut Yield:** applying 50 lbs. of nitrogen to grass hayfields after 1st cut will boost yield and quality. If there is no rain in the forecast, use a volatilization inhibitor on urea.
- **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.

Stay safe and still hoping for some sunshine.

Our next sample day will be Tuesday June 3.



Dairy One

Forage Laboratory

Special thanks to Dairy One for providing the sample analysis





2025 Scissors Cut Results

Delaware County Scissor Cut Results				May 20				May 27			
Farm	Town	Elev	Species	Ht	NDF	NDFD ₂₄	TDN	Ht	NDF	NDFD ₂₄	TDN
Darling	Andes	1580	Clov(40%)/Grass	12/23	46.7	66	65	14/26	59.8	60	63
Eisele	Andes	1590	Orchardgrass	23	61	61	64	27	60.8	60	62
Gladstone	Andes	1960	RClov(35%)/Orch	15/26	43.8	60	63	18/36	46.9	52	63
Darling	Andes	2200	Red Clover	18	33.9	61	62	21	36.3	61	65
Evans	Andes	2250	Mixed Grasses	13	58.5	63	64	20	54.6	63	66
Rossley	Bovina	1680	Mixed Grasses	18	55.4	64	67	24	59.7	58	62
Brannen	Bovina	1840	Mixed Grasses	15	60.6	62	65	20	57	59	63
Mattson	Colchester	1100	Alf(80%)/Tfesc	29/34	44	52	60	31/40	50.8	54	60
Mushkoday	Delhi	1320	Alfalfa	30	30.3	51	64	32	34.1	44	64
Frisbee	Delhi	1380	Mixed Grasses	30	64.5	67	62	34	55.6	62	64
Sullivan	Delhi	1430	Orchardgrass	30	58.5	63	65	36	61.1	60	64
Shephard	Delhi	2050	Mixed Grasses	32	58	59	65	36	58.6	62	67
Buel	Franklin	1260	Alf(50%)/Orch	36	62.1	59	62	25/39	56.2	60	63
DiBenedetto	Halcott	1730	Orchardgrass	29	59.8	68	62	36	62.3	61	62
Scobie	Hamden	1480	Mixed Grasses	15	52.3	66	67	19	44.7	64	70
Potter	Hamden	2100	Mixed Grasses	20	58.2	65	66	22	55.1	63	67
Hillriegel	Hardenburgh	1700	Orchardgrass	28	62.4	62	59	32	63.6	58	62
Haynes	Kortright	1870	Orchardgrass	29	63.8	67	64	37	59.9	59	63
Scott	Masonville	1620	Reed Canary	29	55.9	64	60	33	54.8	65	62
Keator	Meredith	1600	Tall Fescue	27	55.6	64	60	36	53.2	61	63
Jurgens	Meredith	2020	Mixed Grasses	28	61.1	68	60	30	59.7	62	62
Cieri	Meredith	2300	Orchardgrass	24	55.4	69	66	27	53.5	68	67
Elliot	Middletown	2060	RCanary/Orch	28	54.4	67	62	36	58.3	64	63
Coombe	Neversink	1340	Tall Fescue	24	56.4	64	63	cut	58.5	60	62
Coombe	Neversink	1420	Mixed Grasses	18	45.8	72	69	24	48	64	66
Gockel	Roxbury	1890	Orchardgrass	24	59.7	64	63	30	60.2	62	65
Albano	Roxbury	1950	Mixed Grasses	27	52.9	68	64	cut	48.4	69	65
Kuhn	Roxbury	1980	Meadow Foxtail	33	65.5	54	61	36	60.2	54	63
Johnson	Sidney	1030	Alfalfa		43.7	49	58	31	35.2	41	63
Johnson	Sidney	1070	Orchardgrass	34	64.2	63	68	40	61.2	57	64
Martin	Stamford	1560	Alf(35%)/Orch	23/32	46.1	61	61	36	50.7	61	62
Deysenroth	Stamford	1610	Mixed Grasses	32	57.1	67	59	36	62.5	62	64
Trovato	Stamford	2200	Mixed Grasses	18/31	61.5	63	62	37	57.3	64	62
LaTourette	Tompkins	1220	Mixed Grasses	24	58.7	64	67	32	58.4	62	64
Wickham	Walton	1240	Orchardgrass	32	61.5	57	65	38	54.7	64	61
Marsiglio	Walton	1720	Orchardgrass	18	57.5	65	65	21	51.1	59	67
Av. Grass				26.5	58.6	64.1	63.8	31.4	56.9	61.6	64.0
Av Mixed				-	48.1	60.6	62.0	-	52.9	57.4	62.2
Av Legume				22.2	35.4	54.8	62.2	24.4	35.2	48.7	64.0

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



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