



2026 Forage Quality Scissors Cut Results Ready to Go!

Estimated days from 5/19 to reach target quality for classes of cattle

		Beef			
	Dairy	Growing Calf	Growing Yearling	Lactating Cow	Mature Dry Cow
Grass	NOW	NOW	NOW	7-10 days	14+ days
Mixed	3-5 days	NOW	NOW	7-10 days	14+ days
Legume	7-10 days	7-10 days	14 days	14+ days	14+ days

With warmer weather this week, hay growth and development returned to more normal rates. Grass height increased 5.2 inches (0"-10") and legumes increased 2.3 inches (0"-7"). Fiber content (NDF) increased in grasses by 1.25 points per day and in legumes 0.95 points per day. Fiber Digestibility decreased 1 – 2 points per day and TDN decreased 0.2 – 0.7 points per day.

Grasses averaged 52.2% NDF, reaching the 50% dairy quality target window.

Mixed stands averaged at 38.7% NDF, a few days away from the target range of 45%.

Pure legume fields averaged 34.3 %NDF just about a week away from target of 40% NDF.

Grass and Mixed stands are in the target range for dairy and beef young growing and finishing animals.

Legume fields are still a week out from dairy quality. For Beef mature cow quality forage, farmers can wait 7-10 days.

A few things to keep in mind:

- **Build quality inventory-** think of the cattle groups to feed your highest quality forage to and how much of that forage you will need. Focus on enough high-quality forage to maximize milk production on dairies and growth on beef calves and finishers.
- **Starting early gives you options-** Create plan to get rolling. Harvesting some fields early will ensure other fields do not get behind. This also allows you to harvest high quality second cutting at the appropriate time!
- **Store Smart-** High-quality feed should be stored in a separate location that is easily accessible at all times of the year, especially in winter. Shorter baleage tubes that are not blocked in, dry hay stored in separate bays, and group baleage bales with the highest quality first cutting close by and easy to access are all ideas to allow you to feed your best forage to the groups you need to at the time of year you need to.
- **Track Harvest-** Start a journal in tractor, use notes app in your phone, create feed storage area overhead map with the bales identified, marking bales with dates and cuttings are all ideas to identify feed & monitor harvest.
- **Monitor and Adjust-** Shoot for Baleage Dry Matter@38-50% and Bunk Silos @ 33-35% DM, uprights and bags @ 33-38%. Pack tight and cover/wrap quickly.

Stay safe and enjoy the hay harvest season.

Our next sample day will be Tuesday May 26.



Special thanks to Dairy One for providing the sample analysis



2026 Scissors Cut Results

Delaware County Scissors Cuts Results				May 12				May 19			
Farm	Town	Elev	Species	Ht	aNDFom	NDFD	TDN	Ht	aNDFom	NDFD	TDN
Darling	Andes	1580	Red Clover	12	29.8	85	70	19	40.4	73.4	63
Eisele	Andes	1590	Mixed Grasses	10	45.3	81.7	64	10	50	70.4	64
Darling	Andes	2200	Red Clover	6	30.2	75.5	70	10	31.5	54.8	66
Gladstone	Andes	2250	Orchardgrass	11	42.8	87.7	69	17	51.9	75.8	62
Gladstone	Andes	2250	Orchardgrass	10	42.3	87	68	12	48.6	75.4	65
Brannen	Bovina	1180	Mixed Grasses	9	42.4	81	68	18	49.1	73.6	63
Mattson	Colchester	1100	Alf(60%)/T Fesc	15/18	33.7	65	66	13/20	38.9	63.2	65
Grant	Davenport	1290	Alfalfa	12	22.9	57.3	70	16	31.7	52.4	65
Mushkoday	Delhi	1320	Alf(65%)/Grass	11/6	29.4	70	68	18/10	27.4	55.6	68
Rama	Delhi	1380	Mixed Grasses	11	43.2	81.7	68	16	51.6	69.3	66
Frisbee	Delhi	1380	Mixed Grasses	15	48.2	73.1	66	20	59.5	67.4	61
Sullivan	Delhi	1430	Clov(40%)Orch	12	44.2	84.2	66	7/15	53.7	71.9	63
Shephard	Delhi	2050	Mixed Grasses	12	47.6	73.7	64	7/19	48.9	71.3	62
Coombe	Fallsburg	1180	Tall Fescue	9	45	84.7	65	18	50.4	71.7	66
Buel	Franklin	1260	Alf (50%)/Orch	10/14	27.2	79.3	70	15/17	34.6	68.5	68
Grant	Franklin	1650	Mixed Grasses	15	45.5	80.1	67	20	52.4	72.7	64
Taggart	Franklin	1720	Orchardgrass	14	42.2	84.1	69	20	53.5	78	59
Buel	Gilboa	1550	Mixed Grasses	11	40.2	90.3	68	20	56.1	71.8	66
DiBenedatto	Halcott	1730	Mixed Grasses	16	44.7	74.9	68	23	51	70.8	67
Scobie	Hamden	1480	Orchardgrass	14	39.3	82.1	65	9/19	45.9	65.3	66
Miller	Hamden	1600	Alf(50%)Orch	6/9	43.9	81.4	67	8/10	46.8	70.6	64
Potter	Hamden	2100	Mixed Grasses	9	39.6	85.9	68	19	49.4	76.3	65
Potter	Hamden	2100	Alf(70%)/Grass	7/8	28.9	89.3	69	10/12	31.5	82.9	67
Hillriegel	Hardenburgh	1700	Orchardgrass	14	43.7	86.2	67	19	55	67.6	65
Haynes	Kortright	1870	Orchardgrass	13	42.9	88.1	66	23	56.6	73.8	59
Hager	Kortright	2000	Tall Fescue	11	37	93.2	69	cut	42.1	74.7	65
Scott	Masonville	1620	Orchardgrass	6/18	43.6	81.7	67	8/25	47.6	74.3	66
Keator	Meredith	1600	Tall Fescue	12	44.5	81.9	66	17	51.1	71.9	64
Gray	Middletown	2020	RCanary/Orch	16				22	56.9	77	62
Elliot	Middletown	2060	RCanary/Orch	15	36.7	81.2	69	23	51	71.7	64
Coombe	Neversink	1340	Mixed Grasses	12	45.2	70.8	67	8	44.4	82	66
Coombe	Neversink	1420	Orchardgrass	10	44.6	84	68	18	54.7	74.9	66
Perry	Roxbury	1720	Orchardgrass	16	48.4	80	62	21	58.6	71.1	66
Gockel	Roxbury	1890	Mixed Grasses	14	44	76.6	69	16	55.3	68.6	65
Albano	Roxbury	1950	Meadow Foxtail	11	43.3	94.2	71	18	46.6	76.2	64
Kuhn	Roxbury	1980	Meadow Foxtail	18	47.9	72.7	67	25	63.4	55.6	60
Johnson	Sidney	1070	Alfalfa	15	27.1	79.6	69	19	35.6	61.8	65
Hanselman	Stamford	1490	Alfalfa	12	27.8	63.7	68	15	32.1	52.8	63
Martin	Stamford	1560	Alf (35%)/Orch	10/17	42.6	79.4	63	13/22	47	75.4	64
Deysenroth	Stamford	1610	Mixed Grasses	11	43	82.4	68	20	51.9	77.3	62
Ryan	Stamford	1750	Orchardgrass	8	43.9	78.3	65	9	50.9	74.5	66
Ryan	Stamford	1770	Orchardgrass					10	50.3	76.6	64
Melvin	Stamford	2020	Mixed Grasses	15	47.2	84.6	68	18	49.4	74.3	64
McClure	Stamford	2080	Alf(70%)/Orch	12/14	30.5	76.2	68	14/21	35.9	70.5	66
Trovato	Stamford	2200	Mixed Grasses	17	44.6	84.3	67	23	56.4	77.3	62
LaTourette	Tompkins	1220	Mixed Grasses	12	44.5	80	66	18	58	71.7	64
Marsiglio	Walton	1720	Mixed Grasses	6	35.7	93	68	10	49	80.7	63
			Av Grass	12.6	43.0	82.9	67.2	17.8	52.2	72.9	63.8
			Av Mixed	-	35.0	77.8	67.3	-	38.7	70.1	66.0
			Av Legume	10.3	27.0	69.0	69.3	12.6	34.3	59.0	64.4

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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