



# 2018 Forage Quality Scissors Cut Results

## Grass Is a Go, Time to Mow

5/17/18



Hay has grown rapidly during the past week and many grass fields have reached target NDF. A few grass fields are slightly below target but we would expect most to reach the target within the week. Several mixed stands with less than 50% legume are also near target NDF as of this sampling. **We recommend starting grass harvest as soon as is practical.** Mixed stands with less than 50% legume content should be considered for harvest soon. Mixed stand with more than 50% Legume content look to be at least a week away from target NDF.

The most advanced grass fields tested around 50% NDF this week, right at the recommend harvesting stage. Grass fields increased about 1.5 point of NDF per day this past week, which is greater than average, but not unprecedented. The first early orchardgrass heads appeared this week and grasses will continue to mature rapidly.

Table 1 has each sample location, listed by Town and elevation, and lists the species sampled, average height, and neutral detergent fiber (aNDFom). NDF is the best predictor for forage harvest timing, we recommend grasses be harvested starting about 50% NDF and Alfalfa about 40% NDF, with mixed stands between 40 and 50 based on the alfalfa content.

We have included 24 hour Neutral Detergent Fiber Digestibility (NDFD), a measure of how quickly and completely forage can be digested in a cow's rumen, larger numbers are better. Also is a column for un-digestible Fiber (uNDF240), this is a measure of the fiber that will never be digested, and is correlated with how much of a forage a cow can eat, determining dry matter intake potential. Lower uNDF240 is better.



Special thanks to Dairy One for providing the sample analysis

A timely first cut is the essential first step to an adequate inventory of high quality feed. It's our goal to provide this weekly crop progress report to support you in planning for a successful hay harvest season.

It's time for the 2018 harvest season to begin.

We will sample again on the May 22 and send results on or about May 24. **Happy Harvesting**





# 2018 Scissors Cut Results



Special Thanks to Dairy One for providing the sample analysis

Table 1: Forage Height and Fiber Content

Farm	Town	Elevation	Species	5/8/15				5/15/15			
				Ht (in)	aNDFom	NDFD	uNDF <sub>240</sub>	Ht (in)	aNDFom	NDFD	uNDF <sub>240</sub>
Darling	Andes	2080	Clover(40%)/T Fesc	11	31.6	98	5	8/13	34.1	82	6.3
Evans	Andes	2240	Orchardgrass	7	39.9	92	7.6	9	48.6	78	10.3
Weber	Bovina	2060	Orchardgrass	9	35.7	96	7.6	16	49.2	77	8.5
Mattson	Colchester	1070	Alfalfa(70%)/T Fesc	11/16	27	85	11	18/17	29.9	64	8.9
Keator	Davenport	1770	Tall Fescue	12	38.3	92	7.2	14	46.5	74	10.5
Board	Delhi	2120	Orchardgrass	9	31.8	101	5.6	18	43.6	83	8
Maxwell	Delhi	1480	Alfalfa(40%)/grass	11	38	94	9.6	13/18	33.4	73	9.6
Mushkoday	Delhi	1340	Alfalfa	9	21.3	78	9.7	17	27.7	60	10.6
Sherwood	Delhi	1610	Mixed Grass	8	38.2	92	8.7	15	45.9	75	8.5
Schaefer	Deposit	1320	Alfalfa	9	33	64	10.4	17	23.4	75	8.8
Grant	Franklin	1660	Alfalfa(50%)/TFesc	8/12	32.4	93	7.9	12/18	42.7	68	9.9
Taggart	Franklin	1750	Orchardgrass	8	36.4	85	8.9	12	51.4	68	9.3
Baldauf	Hamden	1650	Clover(30%)/grass	4/7	30.6	99	8	10	38.8	83	9.8
Merrill	Hamden	2050	Alfalfa(30%)/orch	6/6	33.6	90	11	12/14	36.5	74	9.9
Moody	Hamden	2100	Meadow Fescue	9	32.7	100	8.5	15	47.5	79	9.4
Hillriegel	Hardenburgh	1670	Mixed Grass	8	31.7	97	5.7	17	46.8	83	7
Bedford	Harpersfield	1820	Alfalfa(50%)/orch		27.7	84	6.7	12/18	35.8	77	7.5
Bedford	Harpersfield	1820	Tall Fescue	4/10	32.7	92	7	16	50.4	70	8.3
Hager	Kortright	2000	Tall Fescue	8	37.2	90	7.2	12	47.2	73	8.6
Schmid	Kortright	2270	Orchardgrass	7	36.7	89	6.9	12	47.9	76	8.1
Sebastian	Kortright	1620	Orchardgrass	11	40.6	88	7.7	16	53.9	71	7.5
Bell	Masonville	1170	Orchardgrass	9	40.8	86	7.1	15	52.2	75	8.1
DiBenedetto	Middletown	1720	Clover(25%)/Orch	6/12	33.1	90	7.1	10/18	50.8	78	7.3
Gray	Middletown	1910	Orchardgrass	11	44.6	84	10.8	15	48.5	74	10.6
Gockel	Roxbury	1680	Clover(20%)/grass	4/10	39.1	87	9.7	7/14	44.2	77	10.3
Kuhn	Roxbury	1980	Mixed Grass	8	37	95	7.9	18	45.4	81	9.4
Sanford	Roxbury	1890	Orchardgrass	13	37.7	93	7	18	42.7	82	7.2
Johnson	Sidney	1020	Alfalfa	11	23.4	61	10.2	18	29.4	77	12.8
Dai-Lil Farm	Stamford	1820	Clover(25%)/TFesc	5/11	30.6	99	11	11/18	36.9	88	9.6
Deysenroth	Stamford	1610	Orchardgrass	9	40.8	83	7.3	20	52.4	76	7.2
Hanselman	Stamford	1500	Alfalfa*(75%)/MFesc	10/10	27.7	75	11.9	16/16	30	73	11.4
Hanselman	Stamford	1500	Alfalfa(75%)/MFesc	8/9	24.3	82	8.6	13/15	29.2	83	10.1
Martin	Stamford	1520	Alfalfa(60%)/orch	9/15	32.3	87	7.8	16/21	30	65	9.7
McClure	Stamford	2010	Alfalfa(50%)/orch	11	40.6	92	4.6	12/15	39.2	74	8
Palmatier	Stamford	2020	Orchardgrass	10	30.8	83	11.6	15	48.7	84	8.3
Reinshagen	Stamford	1820	Mixed Grass	10	39	94	6.9	16	45.3	82	11.6
LaTourette	Tompkins	1210	Alfalfa(25%)/grass	8/7	28.9	88	11	12/14	46.5	71	9
Shelton	Tompkins	1340	Mixed Grass	6	38	88	8.2	14	48.9	77	7.3
Pieper	Walton	1390	Orchardgrass	14	41.2	102	10.6	18	49.8	82	11.5
Pieper	Walton	1230	Clover(50%)/TFesc	8/11	33.5	91	12.8	11/15	46.5	75	8.2
Wickham	Walton	1280	Alfalfa(70%)/orch	11/14	27.8	93	10.3	15/21	37.7	68	9.5

We recommend harvest of grasses starting at 50% NDF and alfalfa about 40% NDF, mixed stands between 40 and 50 based on the alfalfa content.