

This is your final report for 2015, haying continues to advance rapidly in the area

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Brunkild				
Gnadenhal				
Minnedosa	194	222	17	27
Newton				
Plum Coulee	184	169	26	28
Portage	138	186	21	18
AVERAGE	172	192.33	21.33	24.33

Fields have grown an average of 2 inches. They are now in the late bud to early flowering stage. From the reports that some of you have sent me it looks like this week the alfalfa harvest will be in full swing. RFV are dropping 8 pt. per day with the biggest drop at the Portage site which is in flower.

As we wind up the Green Gold Program for 2015 I would like to thank Jill Verwey, Daryl Bachalo, Vern Wiebe and Mark Donohoe for allowing us to use their fields and take samples to help provide the information that we have put into the Green Gold reports for 2015. Also special thanks to Shawn Cabak for taking samples

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Alfalfa Flowering

In the Central area fields are starting to flower. Once alfalfa starts to flower it usually indicates that it is time to cut your hay no matter what type of livestock you are feeding. Alfalfa beyond full bloom doesn't generally increase your tonnage of harvested material and as it matures it loses lower leaves rapidly, decreasing its feed value.

In the June 4th Eastern report I noted that fields were being cut. This is a picture of the re-growth that I saw on June 11th. Normally fields that are cut in early June, with rains and warm weather start to initiate new growth at the crown. What you should be planning for is that in 28-35 days you should be looking at taking your second cut. With haying in this area starting around the 8th of June you might expect second cut to start around July 10th.



This will enable you to look at 3 cuts before the critical fall period and a 4th cut sometime in late September early October. It is always a good idea to have at least one cut go to flower. This practice enables your alfalfa to establish good root reserves so that it can recover somewhat from any past damage and go into winter in as good a shape as possible, allowing the crop to flower will insure that the root reserves are full. If you miss the second cut window you might want to consider letting the 2nd cut flower or let the 3rd cut flower and take it after the critical period. For information on the Critical cutting date and managing that last cut contact your MAFRD Forage Specialist or myself.

Tracking your first cut and the date you cut will enable you to monitor when about 400-450 GDDs has accumulated to give you an estimate of when to take the second cut.

Understanding Wet Hay

Extra moisture in hay can cause heat inside the bale. Heat produced by the bale comes from two sources: **First)** biochemical reactions from plants themselves as hay cures. (This heating is minor and rarely causes the hay temperature to exceed 110 degrees F.); **Second)** Most heat in hay is caused by the metabolic activity of microorganisms. They exist in all hay and thrive when extra moisture is abundant. When the activity of these microbes increases, hay temperature rises. Hay with a little extra moisture may not exceed 120 degrees F., whereas, wetter hay can quickly exceed 150 degrees. If the hay rises above 170 degrees, chemical reactions can begin to occur that produce enough heat to quickly raise the temperature above 400 degrees and the wet hay can begin to burn and cause fires

Sponsors Appreciation

The Green Gold Program relies on sponsor support and because of this support we were able to provide coverage for a wider area of the province. We recognize them and their support in all of the Updates that you have been receiving but what is needed is for you the end user of the information to let them how much you appreciate their involvement and support of your industry. Please be sure to thank them.