

Hay Day for the Interlake area is still on schedule for the 12th of June and looking at what is happening in the Dauphin area it looks like June 17th.

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Arborg	165	204	20	23
Oak Point	163	199	21	21
Stonewall	189	172	24	26
Dauphin	211	204	20	26
Beausejour	178			24
AVERAGE	181.2	194.75	21.25	24

Over the past 2 days we have seen the RFV in the West and Interlake area drop 17pts. Crop height has jumped an average of 2". Staging is early to late bud with reports of early flowing in the Stonewall area.

Although there are no reports of cutting looking at the RFV at some locations I would suspect that producers targeting dairy quality will begin soon. Once a first cutting is made, bud stages on the re-growth generally occurs again about every 30 days after cutting, allowing four bud-stage, dairy quality cuttings per season. Your most critical decision then, is when to make that first cutting.

➡ [Access all 2015 Green Gold Reports](#)

For more information contact:

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Alfalfa Flowering

As mentioned at least one field sampled has started 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

Thanks to MAFRD staff for assisting in collecting samples

