

Looking at the drop in RFV HAY DAY for the Interlake area is estimated for June 10th. For the other areas in the report it is too soon to give an estimate. There weren't any lab results for the Beausjour location at time of printing

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Arborg	208	222	17	24
Oak Point	205	222	17	25
Stonewall	202	208	18	28
Dauphin	251	243	14	28
Beausjour				
AVERAGE	216.5	223.75	16.5	26.25

There has been some good progress in the alfalfa throughout most of the area. The alfalfa is advancing well. Producers looking to produce a high quality hay should be watching for windows of opportunity to get their hay off in as good a condition as possible.

 [Access all 2015 Green Gold Reports](#)

For more information contact:

John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

e: john@mfga.net, website: www.mfga.net or follow us on [Twitter!](#) 

Financial support for this project provided by the following sponsors:

GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



What I am Hearing

Alfalfa looks good here in Dauphin – 13-14 inches in height and at the early bud stage now. P

In the Eastern area haying has started but mostly on alfalfa grass fields. I did a GGNIR sample on a field that was being cut and found that the NIR results were about 30-35 pts lower than comparative pure alfalfa samples. If you have grass in your alfalfa fields you may want to consider cutting 5-6 days earlier if you are looking for hay quality similar to alfalfa cut at the same stage.



Shorting Drying Times

Understanding how cut hay dries and how losses occur during cutting, conditioning, raking and baling is the first step in choosing techniques for maintaining the quality of cut hay. Rain is most detrimental to hay quality if it occurs in the first day or two after cutting when danger of leaching losses is higher. Two inches of rain in a single event is less detrimental than a half-inch of rain over four days, because wet plants respire longer, compromising quality and dry matter.

A cut plant continues to respire losing sugars until it drops to below 40% moisture so shorting the time it takes to go from 80 to 40% increases the energy content of the hay. Techniques like wide swaths, conditioning the hay and time of day can speed the drying process and enable you to put up hay in better condition. For more information on making better quality hay click on [High Quality Hay Management](#)

Rain on Alfalfa

Although there has been a lot of hay put up there is still some on the ground and with the recent rains you may be asking just how rain can affect my crop?

There are many studies on this and they have determined that a one inch rain 24 hours after being cut can cause losses of up to 22% in dry matter. Whereas a 1.6 inch rain over several days caused a loss of 44%.

The loss is due to leaching of nutrients like the carbohydrates and plant respiration which occurs until the plant reaches 30-40% moisture and each time it gets rained on. It is interesting that the studies show that hay that is almost dry enough to be baled will lose more dry matter when rained on than hay that has just been cut.

Crude protein doesn't seem to be affected by rain but digestibility is lower due to the leaching of the carbohydrates and the ADF and NEF will increase.

Grass hay often will not experience the same degree of loss as alfalfa hay. The majority of yield loss in alfalfa hay is due to leaf loss. Grass leaves are not as easily lost.

For more information on this click on [RAIN](#)

Thanks to MAFRD staff for assisting in collecting samples

