

## ABOUT THE MFGA GREEN GOLD PROGRAM



**MFGA's Green Gold Program helps Manitoba alfalfa producers predict an "OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE" – the date when pure standing alfalfa stands are at optimum quality (170 RFV) for a first cut in their local areas.**

The goal of our program is to encourage growers to be strategic with their alfalfa hay crop harvest, making decisions based on specific feed and market needs and field observations.

By clipping alfalfa samples from subscribed MFGA Green Gold fields, the testing results can help suggest the date with higher relative feed value (RFV) for the highest feed value for livestock. With the cool start to the 2021 growing season, some areas of Manitoba experienced a slower start to their alfalfa crop this year.

MFGA's Green Gold Program relies on beef and dairy producers, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development staff and Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives staff to clip and submit alfalfa samples twice weekly to Winnipeg's Central Testing Laboratory for testing. Since sampling is in real-time, the effect of current weather conditions on quality is accurately reflected in the results. Regional results are sent to over 300 MFGA Green Gold subscribers including alfalfa, dairy, beef and sheep producers, and distributed to Manitoba media and industry.



## 2021 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 23 fields registered for the 2021 MFGA Green Gold Program including alfalfa fields from Central, Eastern, Interlake, and Western Manitoba.
- Alfalfa sampling from registered fields started on May 27 (starting height of 10 inches).
- The weather conditions this spring were cool and dry until favorable rainfalls within a significant heat wave came near the end of the program.
- Areas in the Western, Interlake, and Central regions were dry and slow-growing for their first initial harvest cut of the season.
- Late frost on May 27 impacted a large part of the province with numerous fields showing light damage on mid-growth level alfalfa fields. Fortunately, these fields appeared to recover quickly.
- The cool dry conditions at the outset of the growing season delayed the potential optimum cutting date by 5-7 days. By end of testing on June 16, the bulk of the fields were in the early-bloom stage.
- By MFGA Green Gold's OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE, the crop height fluctuated widely, ranging from 10 to 25 inches in height, due to challenging growing conditions.
- In some areas, there were two Optimum Harvest Dates, one for the fields that were on track out of the gate and one for those that were delayed by conditions.
- Cutting in some regions started the week of June 7 with good harvest conditions.

### MFGA GREEN GOLD OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE

Through testing, the MFGA Green Gold Program declared the Optimum Alfalfa Harvest Dates as:

**CENTRAL:** June 9  
**WESTERN:** June 9  
**EASTERN:** June 11

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**THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 MFGA SUPPORTERS - *We couldn't do it without you!***

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**MFGA PROJECT PARTNERS**



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