

## 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 MFGA Green Gold program originated decades ago as a program delivered by Manitoba Agriculture and led by then-MB AG forage specialist, now MFGA extension specialist, John McGregor. The goal of our program is to encourage growers to be strategic with their alfalfa hay crop harvest, making decisions based on best first cut date for specific feed and market needs and field observations.

By clipping alfalfa samples from subscribed MFGA Green Gold fields, the testing results suggest the first-cut date with the higher relative feed value (RFV) for the optimum livestock feed value. The weather this spring included intense heat, quickening the arrival of Optimum Harvest Dates.

MFGA's Green Gold Program relies on alfalfa, dairy and livestock producers, to clip and submit alfalfa samples twice weekly and send on to Winnipeg's Central Testing Laboratory who performs testing of the samples. 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 more than 300 MFGA Green Gold subscribers including alfalfa, dairy, beef, bison and sheep producers, and distributed to stakeholders including Manitoba media and industry.



## 2023 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- There were **23 fields** involved in the 2023 MFGA Green Gold Program including representative fields from Central, Eastern and Western Manitoba.
- Alfalfa sampling from registered fields began on May 18 (starting height of 10 inches).
- The weather this spring saw warm conditions until intense heat arrived by end of program.
- Most areas in the Western, Eastern, and Central regions were favorable for the first initial harvest cut of the season.
- Early frost on May 10 impacted a large part of the province with numerous fields showing light damage half way to the alfalfa's early growth. Fortunately, these fields appeared to recover quickly.
- By end of testing on **May 31**, the bulk of the fields were in the early-bloom stage.
- By MFGA Green Gold's OPTIMUM HARVEST DATE, the crop height averaged **20 to 23 inches**.
- Cutting in some regions began on May 31, having good harvest conditions for their first cut.

## OPTIMUM HARVEST DATES

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

**CENTRAL: JUNE 1**  
**WESTERN: JUNE 1**  
**EASTERN/INTERLAKE: MAY 31**

[VIEW ALL 2023 REPORTS](#)

**MUCHOS GRASSES TO OUR 2023 MFGA SUPPORTERS - *We couldn't do it without you!***

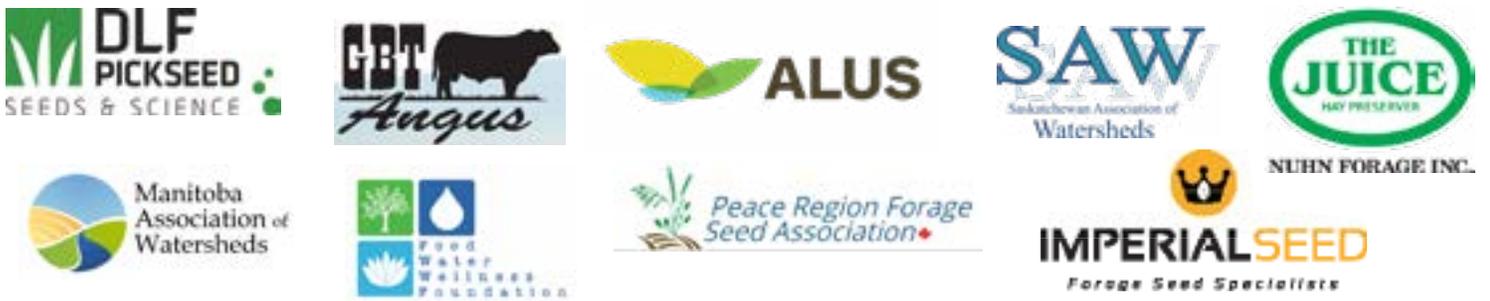
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**MFGA PROJECT PARTNERS**



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