

MFGA Green Gold Report – June 1, 2020 – WESTERN / CENTRAL

2020 Reports for Optimum Alfalfa Harvest Date cover Eastern, Central and Western Manitoba.

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Elm Creek	172	217	19	27
Austin		190	24	
Gladstone		230	17	
PLP Southport	196	211	20	27
PLP South	192	211	20	29
Newton	178	237	16	27
CENTRAL AVERAGE	185	216	19	28
Miniota N	238	244	15	30
Dauphin	239	222	17	31
Hartney	177	260	13	23
Fork River				
Sifton	244	222	17	31
Souris	187	216	18	25
Brookdale/MBFI	237	266	11	26
WESTERN AVERAGE	220	238	15	28

Weather station through-out the area indicate that the Western area may have escaped to frost whereas the Central came very close and there maybe areas that had light frost damage to the alfalfa.

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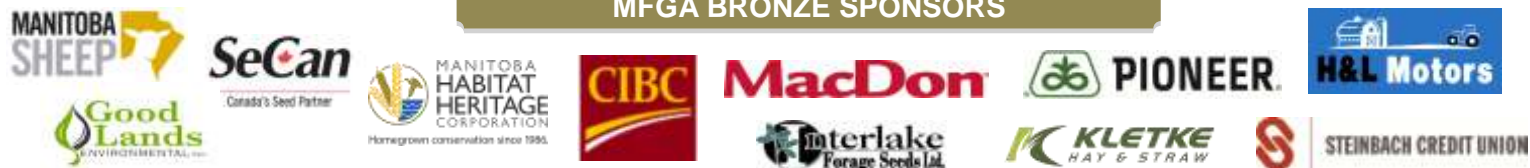
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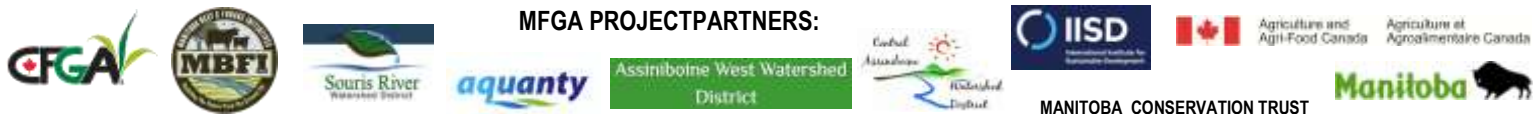
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What I'm hearing

Rainfall amounts over the past week have been spotty and although there seems to be good growth rainfall is needed to finish this cut and to ensure that there is adequate moisture to get the second cut off to a good start. There were reports of light frost damage in some areas. Alfalfa in many areas has entered the early bud stage. At this stage there are 1-2 nodes with visible buds.



1 Alfalfa MBFI Brandon

Best stage to cut my grass or legume hay?

The best stage partly depends on the nutritional needs of the animals to be fed and if you want to maximize the amount of protein harvested per acre. The best stage of



2 Alfalfa in early bud stage

maturity to accomplish this goal is at the late bud to 10% bloom stage for alfalfa, at the 10% to 20% bloom stage for clovers, and between the late boot and early heading stages for grasses. Alfalfa-grass mixtures should be cut based on the stage of maturity of the alfalfa. Clover-grass mixtures should be cut based on the stage of the grass.

Effects of Cutting Stage on Forage Quality				
	Stage of Maturity	% CP	% NDF	% ADF
Alfalfa	Early Bud	20.2	49.3	32.0
	Late Bud	19.0	47.0	29.4
	Early Bloom	17.6	52.0	31.5
Timothy	Joint	11.1	68.7	38.0
	Pre-bloom Head	10.2	70.6	40.4
	Fully headed	7.9	72.8	40.7

Adapted from: Dr. Peiquiang Yu. When is the best cutting time for alfalfa? And When is the best cutting time for timothy hay?