

MFGA Green Gold Report – June 8, 2022 – CENTRAL

Reports for Optimum Alfalfa Harvest Date cover Manitoba's Central, Western, Eastern and Interlake areas.

| SITE | RFV NIR | RFV PEAQ | Height | CP |
|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Bagot | 197 | 200 | 22 | 27 |
| Bruxelles | 209 | - | - | 28 |
| Glenella | - | - | - | - |
| Horndean | 215 | 205 | 21 | 25 |
| MacGregor | 214 | 217 | 19 | 29 |
| Manitou | 194 | 224 | 18 | 28 |
| Treherne | 219 | 210 | 19 | 27 |
| St. Claude | 162 | 211 | 20 | 27 |
| CENTRAL AVERAGE | 201 | 211 | 19 | 27 |

The RFV has dropped 14 points in the past 48 hours.

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Scout for Alfalfa Weevils

There have been reports from producers on finding alfalfa weevils in their fields. Although damage presently is minor, significant defoliation is possible, which impacts yield, quality and the health of the stand. Damage is typically seen in the first crop of alfalfa.

What is Relative Feed Value?

Over the years we often get the question about Relative Feed Value (RFV). RFV is an excellent measure of alfalfa quality because it reflects the digestibility - Acid Detergent Fiber (%ADF) - and the intake potential - Neutral Detergent Fiber (% NDF) - of alfalfa. The guideline is 20-30-40, based on forage testing 30 percent ADF and 40 percent NDF, RFV would be 150 with 20 percent crude protein. Producers use this guideline when buying alfalfa and on the alfalfa they grow to determine quality. Obviously the more mature the alfalfa at harvest the higher the percent of ADF and NDF (lower RFV). However, rain damaged hay will also be higher in ADF and NDF because the soluble sugars and carbohydrates can be leached out. Rain damaged hay is also less palatable. Notice that RFV does not include the protein percent of the alfalfa! Astute dairy producers who purchase alfalfa not only utilize the chemical analysis and RFV, they also buy small quantities and feed it to the cows voluntarily to see if they readily consume it before deciding to purchase larger quantities.

Although the [MFGA Green Gold Program](#) targets a RFV of 150 as the optimum stage to put up alfalfa, many producers want higher quality hay for their livestock or the hay market. Through our program, you can follow the decline in RFV and time your harvest based on the quality desired.

Producer Support Always Welcome to Help MFGA Make a Difference

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