



**MFGA Green Gold Report – June 6, 2022 – WESTERN**

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

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Cartwright	224	210	19	31
Inglis	-	-	-	-
Laurier	203	244	15	25
McCreary	207	234	16	29
Miniota	-	-	-	-
Oak River	-	-	-	-
Ochre River	-	-	-	-
Souris	241	216	19	32
<b>WESTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>29</b>

Areas of the western section have developed early buds with the recent heat. A touch of frost has damaged the edges of the leaves but did not affect the crop. Wind damage has occurred on some leaves. The RFV has dropped 11 pts in 5 days.

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## **Frost**

Some parts of the province had received frost overnight on June 1st and 2nd.

Here are some guidelines to see how your fields look:

- Light Freeze (-2.8 – 0.5° C): Alfalfa plants trifoliate leaves down the stem and some slight curling of the stem may be observed. Buds or growing points are somewhat better insulated and will continue to grow as normal. A majority of the terminal buds should still look green and alive 2 to 3 days after the freeze event.
- Moderate Freeze (-3.3-2.8° C): Upper part of the stem and terminal buds can be killed. Regrowth must occur from lower axillary buds on the stem or from new crown buds. Growth and first cutting will be delayed.
- Hard Freeze (-3.3° C and colder): Leaf, buds, and stem tissue will be killed and plants will re-grow from crown buds. First cutting will be delayed significantly.

## **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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