



## MFGA Green Gold Report – May 18, 2023 – EASTERN REGION

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

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Beausejour	-	-	-	-
Blumnort	-	-	-	-
Grunthal	-	-	-	-
Kleefeld	-	-	-	-
Landmark	-	-	-	-
Whitemouth	238	277	11	34
<b>EASTERN AVERAGE</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34</b>

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CONTACT: Terra Bergen, MFGA Green Gold Coordinator, e: <mailto:terra@mfga.net>, t: [@mbforages](https://twitter.com/mbforages)

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### What I am seeing:

- The fields in the eastern region of the province are developing at a good pace and average with the rest of the province
- There was some hail damage in some areas near Grunthal. The eastern region did not receive frost damage.
- Currently, there is no insect damage to the crops in our report.

### What is Relative Feed Value?

Relative Feed Value is an excellent measure of alfalfa quality because it reflects the digestibility (% ADF) and the intake potential (% NDF) of alfalfa. The guideline based on forage testing 30 percent ADF and 40 percent NDF would be 150 RFV with 20 percent crude protein. Producers use this guideline when buying and buying alfalfa to determine quality. The more mature the alfalfa at harvest; - the higher the percent ADF and NDF (lower Relative Feed Value). 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. **RFV does not include the protein percent of the alfalfa.** Many dairy producers who purchase alfalfa 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.

The [MFGA Green Gold Program](#) targets a RFV of 150 as the optimum stage to put up alfalfa. Through our program you can time your harvest based on the quality by following the decline in RFV. When RFV decreases, your best time to cut is as soon as possible.

### Producer Support Always Welcome

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