

## Green Gold Report – June 1, 2016 – WESTERN / INTERLAKE

**Hay Day for the area was delayed slightly.** Some areas in the North have seen the crop jump 3-4 inches in the last 2 days, most other areas have advance ½ per day. Looking at the RFV you can see that some areas are at the Optimum RFV of 170 while others are closer to the 150 point.

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Arborg	155	184	24	24
Oak Point	179 est	204	20	27est
Roblin	176	188	23	26
<b>NORTH AVERAGE</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>
Brandon				
McAuley	150	179	25	24
Virden				
Virden North	175	178	24	25
<b>SOUTHWEST AVERAGE</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>

The Oak Point results were delayed but have been estimated at 179. All fields are early bud with the exception of the Virden N which has moved into the late bud stage. Since the last report the crop throughout the area has moved up one stage.

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For more information contact:

John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

e: [john@mfga.net](mailto:john@mfga.net), website: [www.mfga.net](http://www.mfga.net) or follow us on [Twitter!](#)



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## Hay in a Day

The drying rate of hay crops is influenced the most by sunlight reaching the forages, which in turn increases the swath temperature and reduces humidity. A full width swath increases the drying surface of the swath by 2.8 times. In many trials, it has been shown that moisture reductions from 85% to 60% can be reached in as little as 5 to 7 hours, hence the term “Haylage in a Day”. The bottom line is that the forage produced with minimal respiration results in higher nutrient content of the forage.

## Rained on Hay.

Rained-on hay causes many problems. It lowers the hay's feed value and, if baled or stacked too wet, can cause mold or heat damage. Sometimes a bigger problem, though, is the long-term damage to re-growing plants. Driving over the field repeatedly, trying to turn hay to hasten drying will injure regrowth and can cause soil compaction, especially if the ground is wet and soft. But, not driving on the field may result in an even bigger problem with the windrows. If they lay there too long, the plants underneath will be smothered. This not only lowers yield, it creates a terrible weed problem as grasses and broadleaves infest the killed strips. These weeds will contaminate all future cuttings. In addition, if rained-on hay windrows are left in the field until next cutting, they frequently will plug the mower, slow harvest, and provide lesser quality hay.

The best option is to remove wet hay any way you can. Bale it, chop it, even blow it back on the ground as mulch. You may need to damage plants by driving on them to turn hay to speed drying and get sunlight to plants underneath. This may contribute to a short-term loss of young plants, but will prevent wet windrows from ruining the rest of your haying year.

While there's no immediate payback to managing severely rained-on hay, ignoring it will be even more costly in the long run.

## What Happens to Forage Quality If I Cut Later?

If you wait until your hay is more mature before cutting it, you will get higher yields. However, the material will be much lower quality.

<b>Forage Quality of Alfalfa and Brome Hay Cut at Different Stages of Maturity</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>Stage of Maturity</b>	<b>% Crude Protein</b>	<b>% TDN</b>
<b>Alfalfa</b>	Bud	21.5	63
	Early Bloom	18.4	59
	Mid-Bloom	15.9	55
	Full-Bloom	13.5	51
<b>Brome</b>	Early Boot	15.0	63
	Early Heading	10.5	58
	Early Milk	8.0	54
	Mature	6.0	48

Adapted from: NDSU. Minimizing Hay Losses and Waste. AS 1190. March 2000.