Green Gold Report – June 14, 2017 – INTERLAKE

Here is the final release for the Interlake. Hay Day was June 12th

SITE	RFV NIR	RFV PEAQ	Height	CP
Arborg	162	178	24	21
Eriksdale	166	187	22	23
Oakpoint	150	187	22	19
INTERLAKE AVERAGE	**159**	**184**	**23**	**21**

Since our last sampling RFV have dropped 45 pts or 5 pts/day. This was estimated in the last report and puts Hay Day in the Interlake on or around the 12th of June

As we wind up the Green Gold Program for 2017 I would like to thank Ricky Johnston, Darcy Mason, Brian and Ed Bottrell for allowing us to use their fields and to take samples to help provide the information that we have put into the Green Gold reports for 2017. Also special thanks to Tim Clarke with Manitoba for taking and submitting samples.

Access all 2017 Green Gold Reports

For more info: John McGregor, MFGA Green Gold Coordinator
e: john@mfga.net, **w:** www.mfga.net or follow us on Twitter!

What I am hearing

With the Interlake getting off to a slow start this spring we have extended the sampling period for an additional week so this will be the last report for 2017.
This week the alfalfa is in the late bud stage. Harvesting started in the Oak Point area. The alfalfa has move from early bud to late bud over the past 10 days and we have seen an average of 4 inches of growth.

Shorting Drying Times

Understanding how cut hay dries and how losses occur during cutting, conditioning, raking and baling is the first step in choosing techniques for maintaining the quality of cut hay. Rain is most detrimental to hay quality if it occurs in the first day or two after cutting when danger of leaching losses is higher. Two inches of rain in a single event is less detrimental than a half-inch of rain over four days, because wet plants respire longer, compromising quality and dry matter.
A cut plant continues to respire loosing sugars until it drops to below 40% moisture so shorting the time it takes to go from 80 to 40% increases the energy content of the hay. Techniques like wide swaths, conditioning the hay and time of day can speed the drying process and enable you to put up hay in better condition. For more information on making better quality hay click on High Quality Hay Management

Understanding Wet Hay

Extra moisture in hay can cause heat inside the bale. Heat produced by the bale comes from two sources: **First**) biochemical reactions from plants themselves as hay cures. (This heating is minor and rarely causes the hay temperature to exceed 110 degrees F.); **Second**) Most heat in hay is caused by the metabolic activity of microorganisms. They exist in all hay and thrive when extra moisture is abundant. When the activity of these microbes increases, hay temperature rises. Hay with a little extra moisture may not exceed 120 degrees F., whereas, wetter hay can quickly exceed 150 degrees. If the hay rises above 170 degrees, chemical reactions can begin to occur that produce enough heat to quickly raise the temperature above 400 degrees and the wet hay can begin to burn and cause fires

Rain on Alfalfa

Although haying has started in the Interlake area most of the hay that went down last week was put up in good condition. Rain on Wednesday and now Thursday may have some of you wondering about how it might affect any hay that was cut and left in the field. You can click on RAIN for more information

Grasses

Likely by now grass heads are starting to emerge. I only mention this as one of the suggestions for getting top quality forage is to time your cutting when the grasses start to head and alfalfa is in the late bud stage. Not all your hay needs to be of high quality and therefore if you are looking at quantity and still have some quality letting the grasses advance beyond seed set adds little to yield. For more information on when to cut alfalfa/grass mixtures click on either of the following articles

When to Make First Spring Cut of Alfalfa and Mixed Alfalfa/Grass

High Quality Hay Management