

ABOUT THE MFGA GREEN GOLD PROGRAM



MFGA is proud to provide our 2018 MFGA Green Gold Program results.

For 23 years, Green Gold has been used to help producers predict “Hay Day” in their local areas – the date when pure standing alfalfa stands are at optimum quality (170 RFV). The higher the relative feed value (RFV), the higher the feed benefit will be to livestock.

With the dry, cool start to the 2018 growing season and then a shift to warm weather with a variation in moisture amounts throughout the province, we saw alfalfa reach optimum quality at early bloom (10 per cent flower) stage. Most areas experienced a shorter than normal crop.

MFGA's Green Gold Program utilizes the assistance of producers, Manitoba Agriculture staff and Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives staff who clip and submit alfalfa samples twice weekly to Central Testing Laboratory for testing. Since sampling is in real-time, the effect of current weather conditions on quality is accurately reflected in the results.

Regional reports are sent to subscribers, posted on our website, and distributed to Manitoba media.



2018 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- A fairly average start to the sampling season this year (May 25);
- Varying temperatures and moisture during the early part of the sampling period made predicting Hay Day difficult due to slow growth but fairly normal stage advancement;
- The crop averaged 24-26 inches in height by Hay Day;
- By end of testing, fields were in the early to late flowering stage;
- Cutting in most areas started the first week of June (4th-10th). Many of these fields were put up as silage with excellent harvest conditions;
- Rains after June 10 caused minimal delays to harvest due to the dry soil conditions throughout the province. Early dry hay harvest has not been difficult.
- Green Gold wrapped up on June 11.

HAY DAY!

Through testing, the MFGA declared HAY DAY (optimum alfalfa harvest date) when harvested alfalfa hits 150 RFV, the optimum level for livestock consumption:

CENTRAL/WESTERN: June 5
INTERLAKE/EASTERN: June 10

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 MFGA SUPPORTERS - *We couldn't do it without you!*

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