Forage Harvest Management
When do you cut?

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Of all the quality factors the producer can control, timing of cutting is the most important.
Perfect Cutting Stage

Important tool in achieving high quality, high yields, and stand persistence.
It also can be effective in reducing the impact of weed, insect, and disease pests.
Stage 0: Early Vegetation
Stage 1: Mid Vegetation
Stage 2: Late Vegetation
Stage 3 : Early Bud
Stage 4 : Late Bud
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height of tallest stem (inches)</th>
<th>Maturity of stem</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LV&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>LB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
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<td>25</td>
<td>191</td>
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<td>156</td>
<td>142</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> LV = Late vegetative, LB = Late bud, LF = Late flower
Forage Quality Stick

Information on the stick is based on a forage quality prediction method developed in Wisconsin, called Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ), and on data from 356 alfalfa samples gathered in California and Idaho.
Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ Stick)

These easy-to-follow steps are printed on each stick:

Step 1: Select an average 2-sq-ft area to sample.
Step 2: Determine the growth stage (vegetative, bud or bloom) of the most mature stem.
Step 3: Find the single tallest stem. Measure from the soil surface to the stem tip using the correct side of the stick (vegetative, bud or bloom). Read the scale to predict ADF.
Step 4: Repeat steps 1-3 in at least five representative areas and average the results.
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By Dan Ogle, Glenn Shewmaker and Ken Sanders

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