

# Guess No More

To estimate the relative feed value (RFV) of an alfalfa stand, follow these steps.

Step 1: Choose a representative 2-sq.-ft. area in the field.

Step 2: Determine the most mature stem in the sample area using the criteria shown in the table.

Step 3: Measure the length of the tallest stem in the sample area from the soil surface (next to plant crown) to the tip of the stem (not to the tip of the highest leaf blade). The tallest stem may not be the most mature stem.

Step 4: Based on the most mature stem and length of the tallest, use the chart for estimated RFV content.

Step 5: Repeat in four or five representative areas across the field.

**Estimate Forage Quality of First-Cutting Alfalfa**

Height of the tallest	Late Veg.	Early Bud	Late Bud	Early Flower	Late Flower	Early Seed	Late Seed
Stem	Relative Feed Value (RFV)						
12"	249	234	220	208	196	186	176
14"	238	224	211	199	188	178	169
16"	227	214	202	191	181	172	163
18"	217	205	193	183	174	165	157
20"	207	196	185	176	167	159	151
22"	199	188	178	169	161	153	146
24"	190	180	171	163	155	147	140
26"	183	173	165	156	149	142	135
28"	175	167	158	151	144	137	131
30"	169	160	152	145	138	132	126
32"	162	154	147	140	134	128	122
34"	156	149	142	135	129	123	118
36"	150	143	137	130	124	119	114
38"	145	138	132	126	120	115	110
40"	140	133	127	122	116	111	107

Premium Quality Dairy Hay	
Avg. Quality Dairy Hay	
Below Ave. Quality Dairy Hay	