



Foliar Applications Improve Forage Quality

6/13/2018

Ben Frieden, an AgriEnergy Dealer and owner of Pleasant Valley Organic Supply in Elgin, Iowa, is using foliar applications to improve forage quality. And he's got the numbers to prove it!

Using a variety of our products, he improved RFV (relative feed value) by 12.9% and improved RFQ (relative forage quality) by 14.4%.

RFV is intended to reflect how well an animal will eat and digest a particular forage if it is fed as the only source of energy. RFQ is an estimate of how much available energy a non-lactating animal will obtain daily from a particular forage if it is all that is fed. Hay with higher RFV and RFQ numbers usually garners a higher price in the market because it is deemed to be a more desirable feed source.

This particular alfalfa crop was treated with:

- **2 gallons SP-1™**
- **5 gallons Pillar 15**
- **6 ounces OroBoost adjuvant**

On May 24, just 6 days after treating, the **forage analysis indicated:**

- The RFV on the treated sample was 280 compared to the untreated of 248.
- The RFQ on the treated sample was 315 compared to the untreated of 275.

The mineral status was similar for both treatments, but the treated sample had higher zinc, copper, and manganese levels.

Just to make sure this wasn't a fluke, Ben ran a second set of tests.

On June 5, just prior to harvest, the **results were very similar:**

- The RFV on the treated sample was 240 compared to the untreated of 190.
- The RFQ was 231 on the treated sample compared to the untreated of 208.

The overall lower numbers reflect a more advanced maturity of the crop. We have not yet received yield data, but past comparisons have shown a 10-20% improvement in both yield and quality.

Want to give your forage a boost? Contact your **AgriEnergy representative** to see what program makes sense for your operation. **815.872.1190.**