Alfalfa Growth

Vegetative Stage—Up to Bud Stage

Reproductive Stage—Bud Stage and Up

First Bloom

Source: Alfalfa Production Handbook, KSU, 1987

Nodes  Flower Buds
Alfalfa RFQ & Growth

Reproductive Stage—Bud Stage and Up

Vegetative Stage—Up to Bud Stage

First Bloom

Source: Alfalfa Production Handbook, KSU, 1987
RFQ & Plant Growth

Forage Quality & Growth of the Alfalfa Plant

Source: Alfalfa Production Handbook, KSU, 1987
Plant Maturity Affects Quality

Beyond mid-bud comes more cell wall constituents:
Lignin, cellulose & hemicellulose
Plant Maturity Affects Quality

Energy, CP, sugar, starch, fats & pectins drop as plant maturity continues. NDF accumulates and becomes less digestible.