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Hay! Quit Raining On Me!

This experiment tested how rainfall affects relative feed value. The purpose of this experiment was for farmers to learn ways on how their alfalfa crop can be sold at market price. With no or little rainfall the bales have a better chance of selling at top dollar, because the relative feed value is higher. Another reason this experiment could be used is for farmers that feed their livestock alfalfa. With no or little feed value then the animal will not meet the right amount of nutritional value, that it should be each day.

The problem identified asked how rainfall affects overall relative feed value of alfalfa. The five rain samples tested were: 0 inches, 0.5 inches, 1.0 inch, 1.5 inches, and 2.5 inches.

A sprinkler was set in a pile of alfalfa with a rain gauge. The rain gauge sits in the middle of the alfalfa pile. The sprinkler would be considered the rainfall. Once the rain gauge showed the first sample, 0.5 inches, the water was stopped and the alfalfa allowed to dry. Repeat the process for the rest of each rainfall sample.

The answer to this investigation was, the more rainfall that was in the alfalfa decreased the nutrient value. With no or little rainfall is when the relative feed value is the best. It has a higher amount of all feed ingredients.

Now farmers can make smart choices on their crop if they are either selling or feeding. This contributed to the farmers and agricultural researchers.