Kelsey Kimberling

Feed of the Future

The objective of this experiment was to test the growth efficiency of barley fodder. I collected 6 batches of barley seed with different protein levels for testing; 12.7%, 11.8%, 11%, 10%, 9%, and a mix tester of all the seeds. In my hypothesis I stated that the barley seed with a protein level of 11% would have the fastest growth rate. The constants and controls in my experiment were the growing climate; amount of moisture given to the seed, and place the seed was grown. The variable in my experiment was the protein levels of the barley seed. I measured the responding variable by measuring the growth rate of the barley fodder. The results of this experiment indicate that a seed with a protein level of 10.0% has the fastest growth rate, growing 33 more grams than the overall growth of 236 grams. In conclusion my hypothesis should be considered incorrect. If I were to conduct this experiment again in the future or expand this experiment I would change the growing climate of the seed, and/ or provide different amounts of water to the seed to test if my results changed in any way. This experiment can be useful to ranchers looking for a way to provide nutrient rich feed and stay on a reasonable budget. Since growing this barley fodder does not take much water, farmers and ranchers wanting to grow this feed will not have to provide as much water as they would for a field of corn.