Grain and Straw Protein Contents of Small Grains. (C03-eckhoff121902-Poster)

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Abstract:

Many producers in Montana have livestock along with a farming operation. Small grain producers with livestock may want to use straw as winter feed for their livestock. It would benefit a livestock producer to be able to estimate protein content of straw given the protein content of the grain, so he would have some idea of what he was feeding. This study tested grain and straw protein contents of spring wheat, winter wheat, durum, barley and oat over four years. All were grown under irrigated and dryland conditions except barley, which was tested only under dryland conditions. Dryland conditions increased both grain and straw protein in all crops except winter wheat, in which irrigation resulted in greater straw protein content than did dryland conditions. Grain protein of winter wheat did not vary much between irrigated and dryland conditions and the range was narrow. Barley had the greatest range in both grain and straw protein contents. Regression of straw protein on grain protein was significant for spring wheat, barley, dryland durum and irrigated oat, but not for irrigated durum, dryland oat or winter wheat.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002
Presentation Time: 4:00-6:00 pm
Poster Board Number: 1136

Keywords:

wheat, durum, barley, oat