

Precipitation had some affect on the production of the tall grass\clover. It most notably affected the growth bluegrass\clover mixture. The tall grass-alfalfa mixture was less affected. This may be due to the fact that alfalfa is deep rooted.

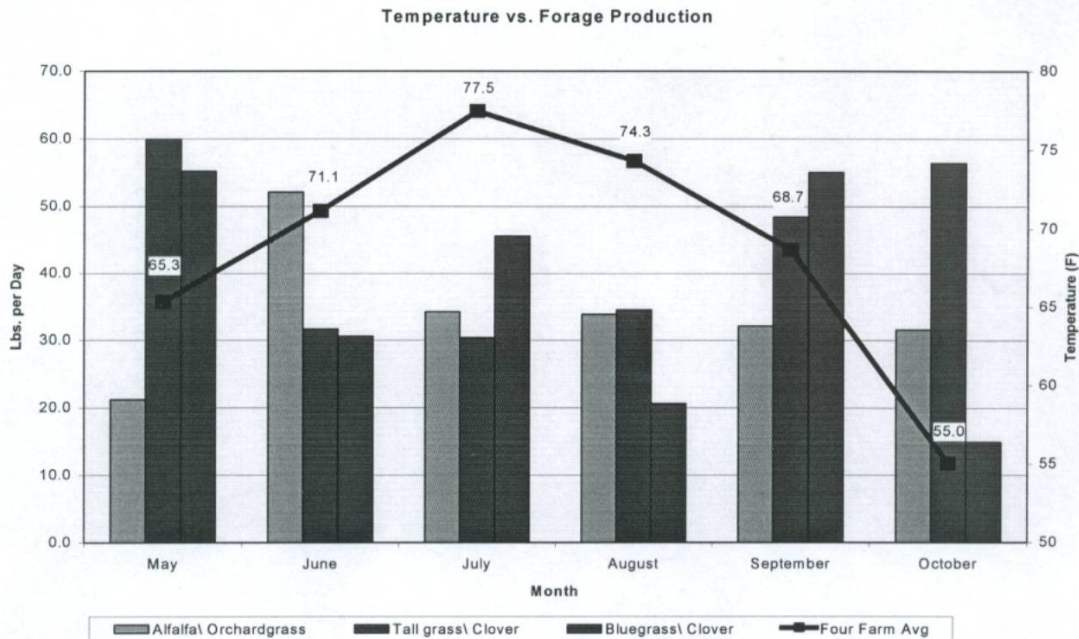


Figure 5

The same forage mixtures were affected by temperature with the bluegrass\clover mixture being the most affected by higher temperatures.

Summary

Pastures and meadows in the Northern Shennadoah Valley produce, on average of 38 pounds of dry matter per day during the growing season. This would provide forage for a little over one animal unit per acre for grazing purposes. Tall grass\clover mixtures have the greatest overall growth rate per day. The production per day has the potential to be greater if normal rainfall is received. Dry matter production is influenced by precipitation for the grass\clover mixes more than the grass\alfalfa mixes.

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