



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



# FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



## Wheat trial update August 2021

Murray Dairy has partnered with Agriculture Victoria through the Fodder for the Future project to conduct an irrigated wheat demonstration trial at their research site in Tatura.

The aim of this trial is to examine how different sowing rates and nitrogen applications affect both the yield and quality of RGT Cesario wheat grown specifically as fodder for dairy cows. The trial has applied four different nitrogen rates and the final amount of N applied will be determined after soil test results have been analysed.

### What are we measuring?

- In addition to yield and quality, the trial is measuring plant stem diameter and tiller density to see if these characteristics influence the final forage quality.
- Two different cutting times are being measured to see what impact an early harvest will have on final yield and quality.

The trial plots have been very wet up until two weeks ago and this is a big constraint for the site. This has limited weed control due to being unable to spray. The presence of weeds are very evident in the lower sown plots.

There is a visual difference between the different nitrogen treatments and the plots with the lower rates of sowing (90 plants/m<sup>2</sup> versus the 300 plants/m<sup>2</sup>).

At this stage the lowest sowing rate and lowest nitrogen rate plots are the poorest. These plots have only had 25kg of nitrogen at sowing, while other plots have had up to 110 kg of nitrogen applied and there is one more application to come for some plots.

Another interesting observation is in the high nitrogen plots, stem elongation is starting to occur. The next nitrogen application will need to occur shortly and then followed up with a cut.

A big constraint with this site is around COVID restrictions and access. The trial management hasn't been as timely due to Government restrictions.

### Wheat trial plots at AgVic Tatura



*Trial site front: lower sowing rate and lower nitrogen, back: higher sowing rate and nitrogen level*

