



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE

Riverine Plains Inc.

Oats and Vetch demonstration site update June 2021

Murray Dairy has partnered with Riverine Plains Inc. through the Fodder for the Future project to develop a demonstration site on a cropping farm at Boorhaman North to highlight management strategies for an oats and vetch mix.

The aim of this demonstration site is to show the impact of sowing date and sowing rate on the yield and quality of an oats and vetch mix specifically grown as fodder for dairy cows.

A mixture of Brusher Oats and Volga Vetch were sown at 10 and 25 kg/ha for the lower sowing rate and 37 and 31 kg/ha for the higher sowing rate. Two different sowing dates were also used to see the impact of a later sowing.

Two different cutting times will also be measured to reflect an early cut for silage and a later cut for hay. These different cutting times will give us an indication of the impact of harvest time on quality and yield for each cut.

The early sown site was sown dry and needed rainfall before germination could occur. The later sown site needed to wait until the earlier site had established before it could be sown. The early and late sowings are now both sown and out of the ground. Some weeds have emerged with the crop and site manager Jane McInnes is confident the crop will quickly smother the weeds. Insect pests and future weed invasion will continue to be monitored.

It is well understood that there is often a compromise between achieving maximum dry matter yield and high quality. The results of

these demonstrations will provide valuable information on the impact various strategies have on final yield and quality of an oats and vetch mix.

This project is a cross-industry collaboration between the dairy, cropping and fodder industries. By working closely with other industries, Murray Dairy hopes to learn from the experts in the cropping industry and share this information with dairy farmers. It also provides us with the opportunity to better understand the needs of cropping farmers so that we can work better together, while at the same time informing crop growers of dairy farmers requirements for high quality fodder.

A field day will be organised later in the year for anyone interested in visiting the site.

Oat and vetch mix demonstration site



Jane McInnes Project Officer with Riverine Plains inspects the oats and vetch paddock at Boorhaman North.

