



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



Oats and Vetch demonstration site update October 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.

What are we measuring?

- Two different cutting times to reflect an early cut for silage and a later cut for hay. These different cutting times will indicate the impact of harvest time on quality and yield for each cut.

Unfortunately, due to the wet seasonal conditions the vetch is really struggling. There was hope back in August that it would get away as the weather did fine up but the recent wet weather has hit the vetch hard once again. We will wait until the samples are analysed to see how much is present.

The oats are growing exceptionally well and there still seems to be a visual difference between the two sowing rates.

There has been no fertiliser applied since August as it has been too wet and now it is too late to have an impact on the yield. The early sown oats were cut at the end of September as a silage sample cut and the

later sown oats will be cut mid to late October (weather dependent). The sample cuts for hay will be late to early November for the early sown oats and then the end of November is anticipated for the later sown oats.

The full demonstration site will be sprayed for weeds and then cut and baled for hay once the later sown crop is ready to go.

Oat and vetch mix demonstration site



Difference between early and late sown oats in August 2021





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Looking across the paddock – front: later sown high oat rate, middle: later sown low oat rate, far end: early sown high oat rate



This project was funded by the Australian Government under the Murray–Darling Basin Economic Development Program