



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



Oats and Vetch demonstration site update August 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.

After the later sowing occurred it started to rain and hasn't really stopped! There are parts of the paddock that are severely waterlogged and as a result the vetch has really struggled.

The oats are doing well and you can see in the paddock the difference between the higher and lower sowing rates.

Another observation is that the later sown oats have had better germination versus the earlier sown ones, but this is not the case for the vetch. The later sown vetch plants are much smaller in height versus the earlier sown, but with some sunlight over the last week the vetch is starting to move for both sowing times.

The weeds that were present back in June are still there and growing. This is to be expected when the crop went into a less than ideally prepared, long term pasture paddock.

It will be interesting to see how this may impact both yield and quality of the end product. The higher sown oats may yet suppress the weeds now that the sun has started to shine – we will have to continue to monitor this.

The planned in person field day has been cancelled this year for a virtual crop walk, to be held on Thursday 9 September 2021.

Oat and vetch mix demonstration site



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

