



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



Cereal trial update August 2021

Murray Dairy has partnered with the University of Melbourne through the Fodder for the Future project to conduct a number of cereal species demonstration trials at their Dookie campus research site.

This trial is designed to demonstrate the performance of three cereal species (Wheat, Barley and Oats) with two cultivars of each species (Illabo and Kittyhawk Wheat, Planet and Laperouse Barley, and Yallara and Eurabbie Oats), and management strategies that can optimise the yield and quality of these crops for use in dairy cow diets.

What are we measuring?

- Two different sowing rates - a typical sowing rate that would be adopted in the region, and a higher sowing rate to see what impact that will have on final yield and quality.
- Stem diameter to determine if higher sowing rates lead to thinner stem diameter and if a thinner stem diameter leads to higher quality.

The plots were sown on the 20 May 2021 dry and two weeks later it rained. The season has been good to date. There is no evidence of water-logging and the plots have all received three nitrogen applications and a fungicide and weedicide treatment.

Visually there is a big difference between species with the oats a long way ahead of both the wheat and barley.

This is irrespective of the sowing rates. There is also a clear difference between varieties.

Visually there isn't a huge difference between the standard and higher sowing rate, but it will be interesting to measure the stem diameter and any other differences at harvest around quality and yield. It will be interesting to see if the cost of the extra seed equates to a higher quality end product that could fetch more in the market.

Cereal trial at University of Melbourne Dookie Campus



Oat varieties *Eurabbie* (LHS) and *Yallara* (RHS), standard sowing rate

