



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



# FODDER FOR THE FUTURE

## Agriculture Victoria

### Wheat trial update June 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 see 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 will be applying four different nitrogen rates, the final amount of N applied will be determined after soil test results have been analysed.

As well as measuring yield and quality, the trial will measure plant stem diameter and tiller density to see if these characteristics influence the final forage quality. Two different cutting times will also be measured to see what impact an early harvest will have on final yield and quality.

The wheat plots have now all been sown down at the site in Tatura, with excellent germination and establishment. Pest control has been excellent, however some capeweed has emerged and has sprayed out with a broadleaf herbicide. Weeds and pests will continue to be monitored.

The plots were sown dry and irrigated up. Follow up rains have been welcomed and the start to the season has been favourable.

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 wheat.

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.

#### Wheat trial plots at AgVic Tatura



*Graeme Phyland, Senior Technician at AgVic Tatura inspects the irrigated wheat plots at Tatura.*

