



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE

University of Melbourne

Cereal trial update June 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.

The trial will also look at two different sowing rates, a typical sowing rate that would be adopted in the region as well as a higher sowing rate to see what impact that will have on final yield and quality.

The demonstration trial will also measure stem diameter to determine if higher sowing rates lead to thinner stem diameter and if a thinner stem diameter leads to higher quality.

The cereal crops have now all been sown down at the Dookie campus site, with excellent germination and establishment. Weed and pest control has been excellent and will continue to be monitored. The season has got off to a great start with excellent germination and establishment. The final yield will also be dictated by follow-up rains through winter and spring.

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 these six cereals.

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 hay and silage to feed their cows.

Cereal trial at University of Melbourne Dookie Campus



Research Scientist Sineka Munidasa inspecting the cereal establishment at the Dookie campus research site.

