



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



Wheat trial update October 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 examine 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 has applied four different nitrogen rates and the final amount of N applied will be determined after soil test results have been analysed.

What are we measuring?

- In addition to yield and quality, the trial is measuring plant stem diameter and tiller density to see if these characteristics influence the final forage quality.
- Two different cutting times are being measured to see what impact an early harvest will have on final yield and quality.

The final two nitrogen treatments have been applied. The higher nitrogen treatment plots are at a more advanced stage of development versus the low and no nitrogen treatments. Some of the other developmental delays between the treatments are potentially due to water logging issues on areas of the site.

The first harvest occurred early October at growth stage 49 for a small number of treatments. The measurements taken include

dry matter, feed quality, number of tillers and stem diameter. The rest of the treatments will be harvested around the middle of October. The next harvest will be at growth stage 71 for all treatments, as temperature controls growth stage development all plots will be monitored closely.

Harvest was done using a 50cm long foam frame that is 150mm high which acts as a guide to control the cutting height. This is the correct protocol for late cut but unsure if this is the correct height for an early cut. We will await the results.

Wheat trial plots at AgVic Tatura



Senior Research Scientist, Alister Lawson in the trial plots in August 2021

