



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



# FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



Irrigated Cropping Council  
*Promoting irrigated agriculture*

## Trial site update August 2021

Murray Dairy has partnered with the Irrigated Cropping Council through the Fodder for the Future project to conduct demonstration trials investigating management strategies for cereals and faba-beans as fodder for dairy cows.

A collaboration between the dairy, cropping and fodder industries, these two trials are helping all parties better understand the needs of cropping farmers and dairy farmers' requirements for high quality fodder.

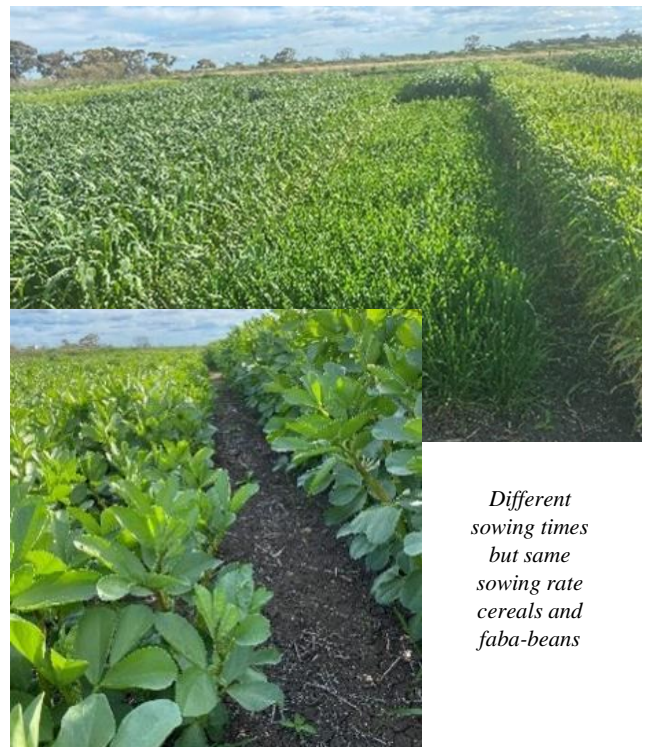
### What are we measuring?

- The first trial is looking at the impact of sowing dates and seeding rates for wheat (Cesario) and oats (Forrester) crops. Sowing dates were early and late April. Sowing rates were 80, 120, 180 and 270 plants per m<sup>2</sup>.
- Two different cutting times to understand the impact of harvest time on quality and yield for each cut.
- The second trial is looking at two sowing rates and three harvest dates for Faba beans (PBA Bendoc) and how they might fit into a dairy farm fodder strategy.

Visually for the early sown varieties there is no difference between the different sowing rates in either the oats or the wheat, unless you get right into the crop. This also holds true for the later sown plots.

In the faba-bean plots, which includes a new herbicide tolerant variety, the alter sown plots are just starting to flower now, versus the early sown ones that are in full flower. It will be interesting at harvest to see if the sowing rates chosen are the best rates to use for this crop and what the quality is like between the two different cutting times.

### Irrigated Cropping Council trial site



*Different sowing times but same sowing rate cereals and faba-beans*

