



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



Vetch trial update October 2021

Murray Dairy has partnered with Southern Growers Inc. through the Fodder for the Future project to conduct a number of vetch demonstration trials at their research site on the northern edge of Finley NSW.

This trial is designed to demonstrate a range of vetch varieties and management strategies that can optimise the yield and quality of vetch, specifically for use in dairy cow diets.

What are we measuring?

- As well as establishment strategies, two different cutting times will be compared to see how these may impact the compromise between quality and quantity

The spring irrigation occurred on as planned.

Cuts taken so far with two more to come:

Treatments	27 September	5 October
Trial 2 and 4 (Autumn irrigation only and dry)	Timok - Flat Pod	Rasina, RM4 & Morava - 20% flower
Trial 1 and 3 (Full irrigation (Aut & spring), Spring irrigation only)	Timok - Flat Pod	Morava - 20% flower

Visually there are a few differences between the early maturity lines – Movara, RM4 and Studenica, they have more bulk versus the later varieties.

Soil moisture monitoring probes were put into the site at the end of the bay after the last irrigation.

Early on there was a noticeable difference between the 50 and 80 plants/m² when they were all prostrate along the ground. Now that the crops have elongated and bulked up it is hard to see the difference.

Before the rain at the start of October the dryland vetch was showing signs of moisture stress compared to the irrigated treatments.

Overall still a great season.

Vetch trial at Finley NSW



RM4 at 50 plants/m² in October



Drone shot in October