



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



FODDER FOR THE FUTURE



Vetch trial update August 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 crops are really progressing well, with good winter rain and no water logging issues. It has almost been the perfect season to date! There have been no fungicides or extra fertiliser added since sowing, but this is being closely monitored.

Right now, there are significant visual differences between the different sowing rates and the different varieties. The heavier sowing rate varieties are a lot thicker and at this stage the broadleaf vetch varieties are ahead of the narrow leaf varieties. The recent sunny weather though has allowed the narrow leaf varieties to catchup, but they still don't look as good.

There is a small difference between the vetches that were pre-irrigated and then sown, versus those sown dry. The pre-irrigated trials are a little more advanced.

The aim is still to harvest at the flat-pod stage. There is also a spring irrigation yet to happen on all varieties, seed rates and sowing dates. This means across the plots there will be one that is:

- pre-irrigated and spring irrigated
- sown dryland but spring irrigated
- pre-irrigated only
- dryland sown and no spring irrigation

A field day (either virtual or in person) will happen on Wednesday 15 September 2021.

Vetch trial at Finley NSW



Drone image of the Vetch trial site – August 2021

