

Trial 34

Demonstration of Varieties of Hay

Sponsored by O'Connors Case IH

Aim:-to compare a number of different varieties which could be used for making hay

Sowing rates:- Vetch @ 25kg/ha

Vetch @ 25kg/ha + Wallaroo Oats @ 50kg/ha

Wallaroo oats @ 50kg/ha + Echidna oats @ 50kg/ha

Bettong oats @ 100kg/ha

Wallaroo oats @ 50kg/ha + Medic @ 10kg/ha

Medic @ 10kg/ha

All varieties sown with 110kg/ha of Grain Legume Super with Zinc

Results:- Feed Test Feed Analysis Report

Variety	Moisture %	Dry Matter %	Crude Protein % of dry matter	Digestibility % digestible DM	Metabolisable Energy MJ/kg DM
Vetch & Oats	10.3	89.8	8.7	68.9	9.7
Oaten Mix	12.3	87.7	6.2	68.3	9.6
Oats & Medic	10.2	89.8	8.2	68.5	9.7
Pure Medic	9.1	90.9	17.5	71.5	10.2
Pure Vetch	8.5	91.5	15.9	67	9.4

Note - Plots were not baled

Comments:-

Vetch & Oats:- the digestibility (and ME) is high, but additional protein may be required from another source in the case of young growing or lactating animals.

Oaten Mix:- Although the digestibility (and energy content) is high, its protein is very low. Animals fed this hay will require additional protein from another source.

Oats & Medic:- the digestibility (and ME) of this hay is adequate, but additional protein may be required from another source in the case of young growing or lactating animals.

Pure Medic:- This is a high quality hay, and it could be expected to promote liveweight gain in weaner sheep & cattle. It should also be suitable for feeding to pregnant or lactating animals.

Pure Vetch:- This is a high quality hay, and it could be expected to promote liveweight gain in weaner sheep & cattle. It should also be suitable for feeding to pregnant or lactating animals.

Vetch hay is nutritious, highly palatable and preferred by livestock. Yields of mixed cereal/vetch hay will range from 1.5t/ha in low rainfall, low fertility soils to 10t/ha in high rainfall, high fertility soils. The general hay yield will be 3 to 6t/ha. As well, there is usually good grazing available to stock after the hay has been removed from the paddock with often another 1t/ha of dry matter remaining. (Bull and Mayfield "Growing Vetch", 1990 edition).

Comparisons between vetch and oaten hay and straight oaten hay over half the paddocks have confirmed that vetch adds around 20% to the bale weight.

Pure vetch stands are not as productive as mixed stands and can be expected to yield 15 to 20% less.

It is important to match the maturity of the oat varieties with the vetch.