



### **Does an oats/ryegrass mix improve early season yields and persist over the growing season?**

Forage oats can be used in a pasture program to provide early season feed but has a shorter growing period than annual ryegrass. A mixture of forage oats and annual ryegrass allows the strengths of one to cover for the weaknesses of the other to give a more even distribution of forage throughout the season. Well that's theory, does it work in practice?

In this trial we included oats in a ryegrass mix to increase the early season dry matter production; and second, used a higher rate of ryegrass in an oats mix to increase the total season production relative to a lower seeding rate. The establishment and harvesting protocol and times were the same as those used for the WASP trials. We also ran the trial at both WASP sites, Boyanup (support block) and Dardanup (milking area).

The photo (left) taken from a drone camera shows the seed mix treatments replicated randomly four times across the trial area on the Matt Brett milking area at Dardanup.