

COVER CROPPING IN SUMMER

14TH DECEMBER 2021

Theme of the day: Cover Cropping

Location: Yathroo

Total Farms Visited: One

Total Attendees: 40

Paddock 1: Characteristics

- Deep, white, sandy soils that are non-wetting. Typical for the region
- Use of cereal/millet to act as a cover crop over summer (broadcast) over perennials during seeding
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Key Discussion Points

- Cover was used to protect the soil from wind events and grasshoppers after a failed seeding.
- Extensive grasshopper damage, especially over young plants.
- Broadcasting the cereals prevented them from establishing in the furrow and competing with young perennials.

Paddock 2: Characteristics

- Gravelly sand
- Needed a cover crop to protect sand during summer
- Maintaining groundcover is the main concern. As the farmer is not always on farm and is unable to 'keep an eye out'.

Key Discussion Points

- Millet was used to protect soil at two different sowing times (late August and late September).
- Early sown millet performed better
- SSS hybrid sorghum was sown, with okay establishment - insufficient for grazing but provides groundcover

Questions from the event - what is next?

- What do grasshoppers prefer? Can we mitigate their damage?
- Would be good to see more examples of perennials sown with broadcast cereals

