



## Two successful combinations of legume/cereal winter forage crops

**Need/issue:** Forage crops.

**Aim:** To give examples of combinations of legume/cereal intercropping for winter forage crops.

**How to implement:**

- Example 1: Vetch with barley (150kg seed/ha, proportions of seed weight at sowing are 33% cereal/67% legume), and forage pea with oat (180kg seed/ha, 25% cereal/75% legume).
- Example 2: Vetch with barley (or oat) and forage pea with oat, sowed in Autumn and cut in Spring for hay or silage. 180kg seed/ha. 17% cereal/83% legume.



**Description:**

- Adding a proportion of cereals when sowing legumes fodder crops, allows easier harvesting and higher productivity and quality of forage.
- This is achieved as cereals act as a stake allowing the growth of the legume at a higher height and avoiding spoilage of crop when sloping. Combinations presented concern non-irrigated winter forage crops: vetch/barley and forage pea/oat which can be harvested early enough to allow for a second crop in the field when irrigation water is available.





## Expected benefits:

Easier harvesting, higher productivity and quality of forage both as hay and silage.

Results of the research experiment indicated, at the harvesting period, a fresh yield (@25% dry matter) of 25–50T/ha for the combination vetch/barley, depending on the agronomic potential of the field, and a slightly lower yield for the combination forage pea/oat. Crude protein content of forage at harvesting was about 16% of DM for vetch/barley and 12% of DM for forage pea/oat.

## Prerequisites and/or limits:

- No prerequisites and limits identified

**Country:** Greece

**Dairy or/and meat sheep:** Dairy sheep

**Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):**  
Ewe

## Topic:

- ☐ Health
- ☒ Nutrition
- ☐ Management

## Level of solution:

- ☐ Knowledge
- ☒ Practical

## Source of information:

Laboratory of Nutrition  
Physiology and Feeding,  
Agricultural University of  
Athens