Mondurup Farms successful serradella pasture establishment….

Chris Kirkwood of Mondurup Farms has sown 10 kg/ha of Cadiz French serradella seed with a dry inoculant using a small seed box mounted on top of a Kelly Chain.

The Kelly chain is a quick way to break up the stubble and with a seed box you can sow a large amount of hectares very quickly. There were some issues in the paddock as a result of thick stubble reducing germination. However, overall it was a great result.

There was no fertiliser applied but Chris used Talsta to control Redlegged earth mites. Clethodim was used post sowing to take out the grass weeds.

Grain & Graze’s, Perry Dolling did a nodule rating on the 8th August and out of a scale between 0 (absent) and 8 (extremely abundant nodules) the average result was 6.3 which means nodules were abundant. The range was from adequate (5) to extremely abundant (8). The nodules were pink indicated they were effective.

Chris’s aim is to have a 1 year phase of a legume (and he is trying Faba Beans and Balansa Clover on the appropriate soil types) to give an input of nitrogen into the soil. He will then follow with a crop phase to utilise this nitrogen. There is no livestock in their system.

Chris is most interested in which legume inputs the most nitrogen into the soil. Perry Dolling will be following this story to measure the inputs and outputs of nitrogen.

The plan is to harvest the seed and to then broadcast it using the Kelly chain onto other parts of the farm next year. Cadiz is a soft seeded French serradella ideally suited to what Chris wants to do as it is easy to harvest, you get 100% germination and there is a low potential that it will become a weed in-crop.