

**TITLE of project: Alternative pasture legumes in NSW Central West**  
**PDS project code: L.PDS.2102**

The CWFS Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) 'Alternative pasture legumes in NSW Central West' is in its first year and aims to increase knowledge and adoption of alternative annual forage legume options available to livestock producers in the low rainfall zone (LRZ) of Central West NSW that have not traditionally been used. The project will showcase how they can be easily integrated into existing mixed farming operations.

Producers in the Central West have expressed interest in increasing their capacity to expand livestock production and lessen the risks associated with high reliance on grain production. New feedbase options exist to improve current systems, including dual-purpose crops and pasture ley legume phases, which will allow for better integration of livestock with crop production.

Three sites have been successfully established at Gunning Gap, Condobolin and north of Condobolin to look at the benefits of incorporating deep rooted, hard seeded legumes in conjunction with the more familiar sub-clover, medic and lucerne options. These legumes include:

- Biserrula
- French serradella Cadiz
- Bladder clover Bartola
- Annual medic Cheetah
- Sub-clover Izmir
- Titan 5 lucerne
- Kittyhawk (a dual-purpose wheat)



*Grower site north of Condobolin – Biserrula, 29/07/21*



*Condobolin Agriculture Research and Advisory Station (ARAS) – Annual medic Cheetah, 07/07/21*

The season started well with early March rain, but drier conditions at sowing time impacted on early pasture establishment.

There was good rainfall in winter, although the colder temperatures did slow pasture growth.

With an abundance of good moisture and warmer weather forecast in spring, pastures should perform well and provide interesting results for producers to consider.

This project is a great initiative to work with producers to support their mixed farming businesses, help reduce the impacts of climate variability, reduce risk in pasture rejuvenation and supply flexible options for the production of fibre and meat.

This PDS is funded by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).