

**Seed Laboratory**  
**Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch-CDFEA**

**Report of Activities**  
**FY 20-21 & FY 21-22**  
**(July 1 – October 27, 2021)**

**11-10-2021**

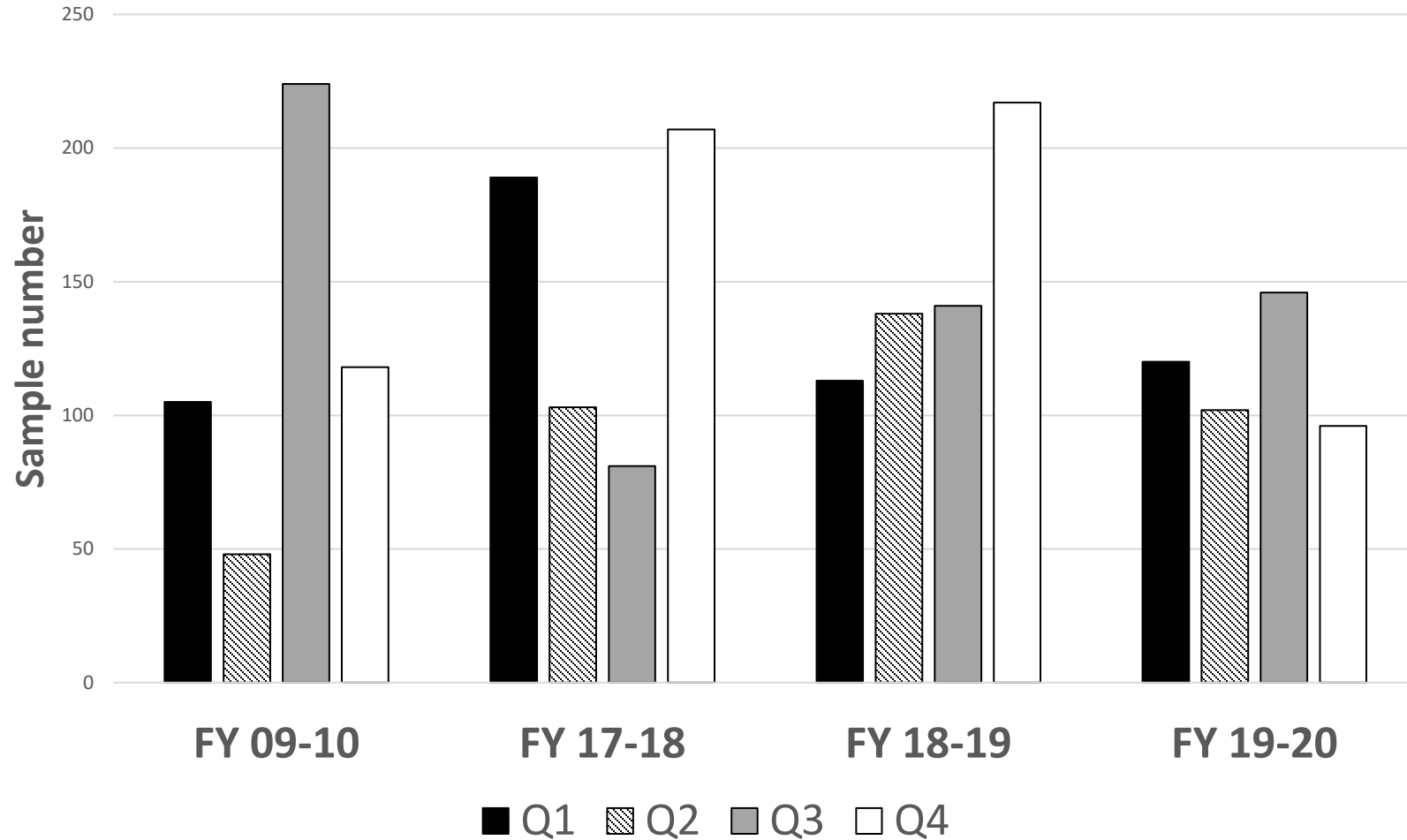
# 1. Label Compliance Testing Sample Numbers and Distribution

So far this FY, **75** regulatory samples have been released to the SL

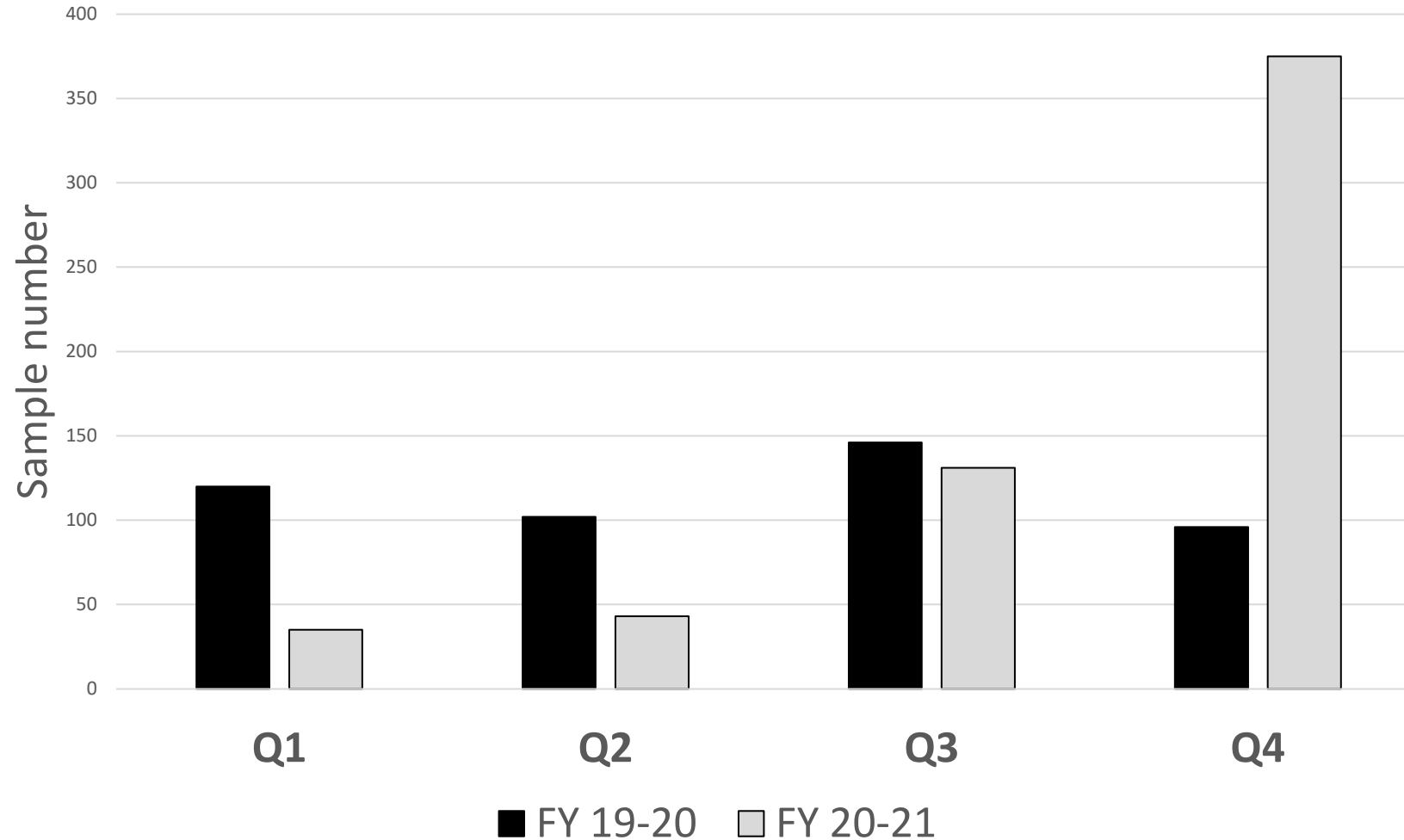
❖ **12.5%** of the set target of 600 per FY

- 48 Agricultural seed
- 17 Lawn seed
- 10 Vegetable seed

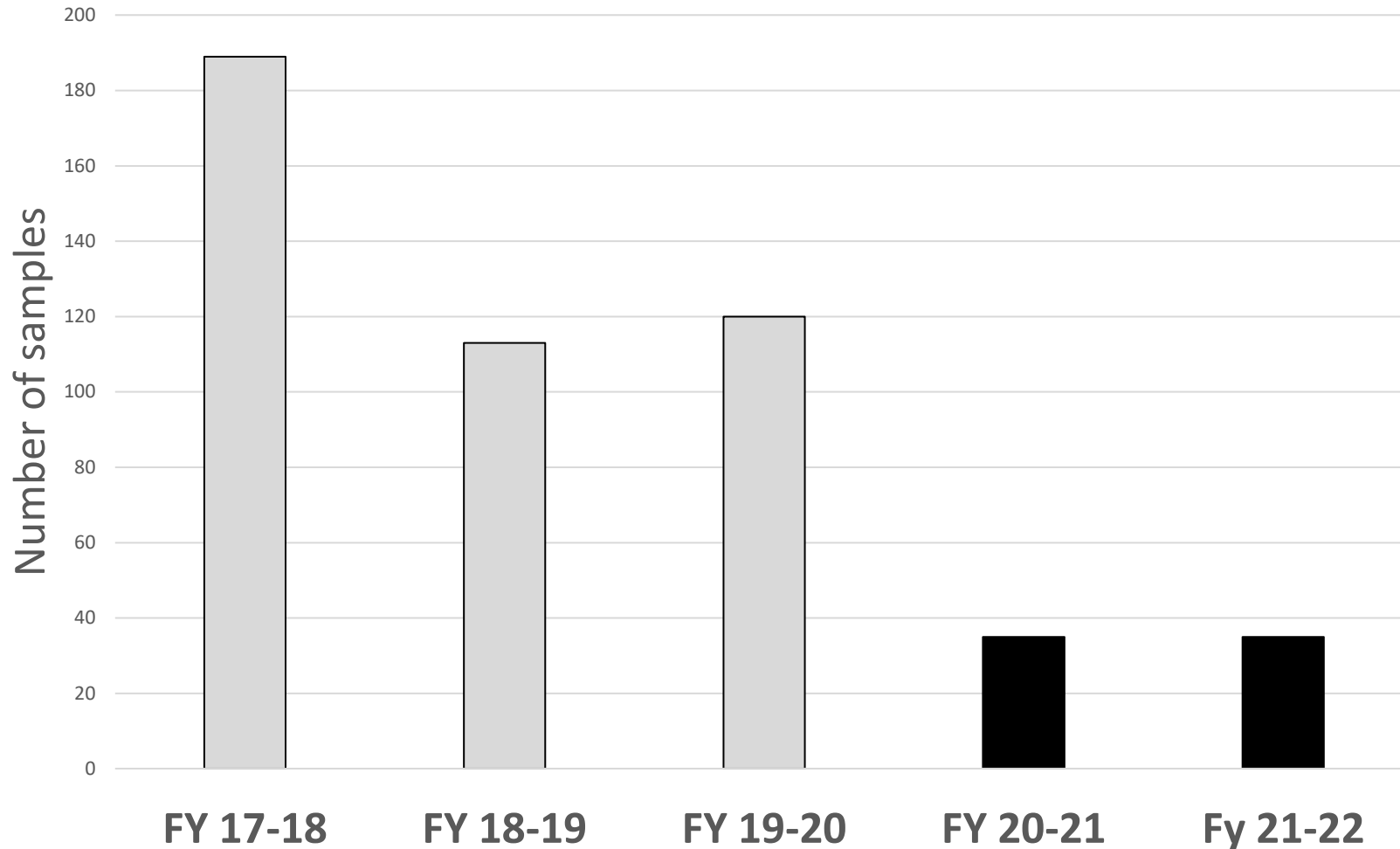
# Number of regulatory samples released to Seed Lab per quarter; 'normal' years



# Number of regulatory samples released to Seed Lab per quarter; FY 19-20 and FY 20-21



# Regulatory samples released to Seed Lab in Q1 FY 17-18 to FY 19-20 ('normal' years) and FY 20-21, FY 21-22



## 2. Label Violations-Seed Regulatory Compliance Testing

### Purity

Pure seed %

Other crop seed %

Inert matter %

Weed seed %

Noxious weed seeds

Total purity components not  
100%

Unlabeled coating material %

Undeclared mixture

Variety not stated

Seed kind

Incorrect labelling of a blend

### Germination

Germination %

Germination not labeled below  
standard

Percent viability calculated  
incorrectly

Germination date of test expired

### Labeling Standards

Agric. vs. veg. crop

Non-registered labeler

No labeler address

PVP notification

No mediation statement

Wrong Sell by/Packed for date

No treatment statement

## **2. Label Violations-Seed Regulatory Compliance Testing**

**Number of samples with at least one type of violation:**

- **Historical range: 15-20%**
- **Violations, FY 20-21: 18% (104/579)**
  - Most violations related to incorrectly labeling percentage pure seed (16), labeling standards, and percentage germination (6).
- **FY 21-22, so far: violations are at 17% (13 out of 75 samples)**
  - Most violations related to incorrectly labeling percentage pure seed and labeling standards.

### **3. Other Activities**

#### **I. Service Samples**

➤ **345 samples processed in FY 20-21**

➤ **62 samples processed in FY 21-22**

- FY 20-21: rice certification tests (152); vegetable germination and vigor tests (broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce); custom tests (18); viability tests (mostly peach); seed IDs (37).
- FY 21-22 (so far): dichondra (9); peach (12); tomato (14); seed ID (14).



### **3. Other Activities**

#### **II. Feed Mill Inspection Samples**

➤ **FY 20-21: 164**

➤ **FY 21-22: 11**

- 5 noxious weed species were found in 3 samples of unprocessed corn and barley grain, including 1 seed of Scotch thistle, a prohibited noxious weed seed (found in barley).

## 3. Other Activities

### III. Other Detections and Identifications

- 1 prohibited noxious weed seed (Canada thistle) found in a regulatory vegetable seed sample (celery).
- 33 seed IDs for border stations county intercepts, including 5 noxious weed seed species (4 prohibited noxious weed seeds and 1 restricted noxious weed seed), plus 1 Q-rated seed from Florida.

### **3. Other Activities**

#### **IV. Regulatory Support Activities**

- Co-authored and consulted on development of more than 50% of all accepted Rules change proposals in 2020 and 2021.

### **3. Other Activities**

#### **V. Seed Testing Lab Uniformity Study**

The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)

Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO)

- In 2019: resolution to conduct a formal study on extent of variability in seed testing across labs providing testing services for labeling seed for sale.
- Blind samples sent to many labs for evaluating extent of variability.

### **3. Other Activities**

#### **V. Seed Testing Lab Uniformity Study**

- Compiled data from all test reports were verified and analyzed by the Seed Lab.
- Report of data analysis, interpretation of results and recommendations presented to a joint ASTA-AASCO meeting.

### **3. Other Activities**

#### **V. Seed Testing Lab Uniformity Study**

- Summary of results:
  - Purity analyses were consistent among labs; no indication of significant variation due to testing methods or proficiency.
  - High degree of variation in germination test results among labs.
  - Viability test results and procedures were highly variable.
  - Noxious weed examination results were of major concern, with widespread deficiencies in detections and classification of noxious weeds.
  - Deviations from reporting requirements were low but require more standardization.

### **3. Other Activities**

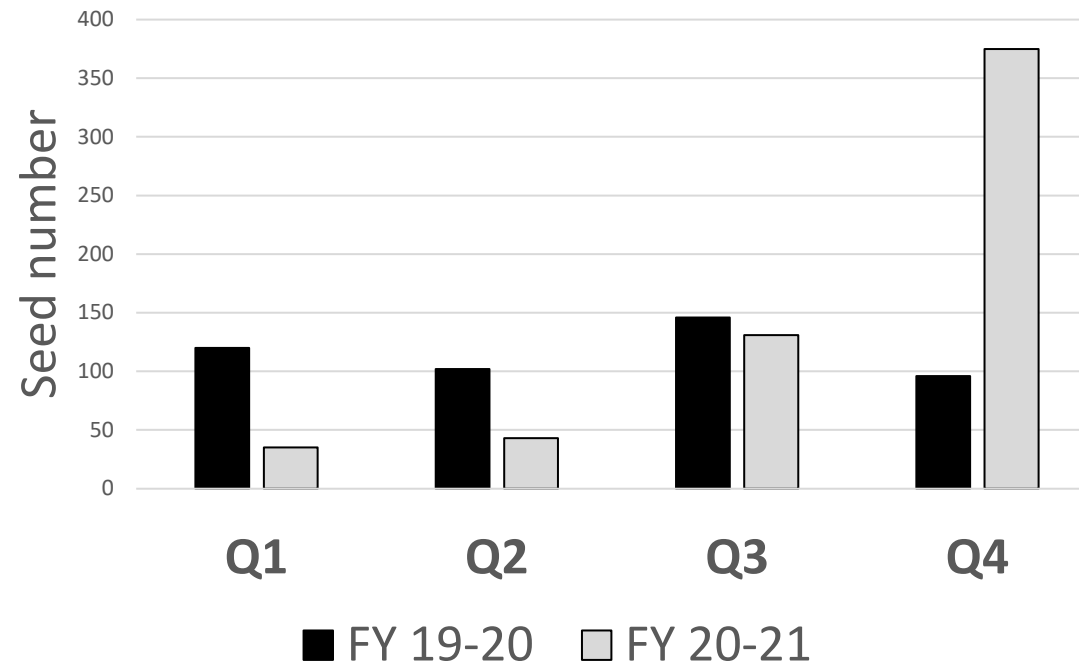
#### **V. Seed Testing Lab Uniformity Study**

- Seed Lab involved in follow-up actions by AOSA based on the uniformity study's results and recommendations.
  - Example: Seedling Evaluation Pictures Database (a 2–5-year project with potential USDA funding).

## 4. Turnaround Time FY 21-22

### V. For completed samples or samples with known completion dates

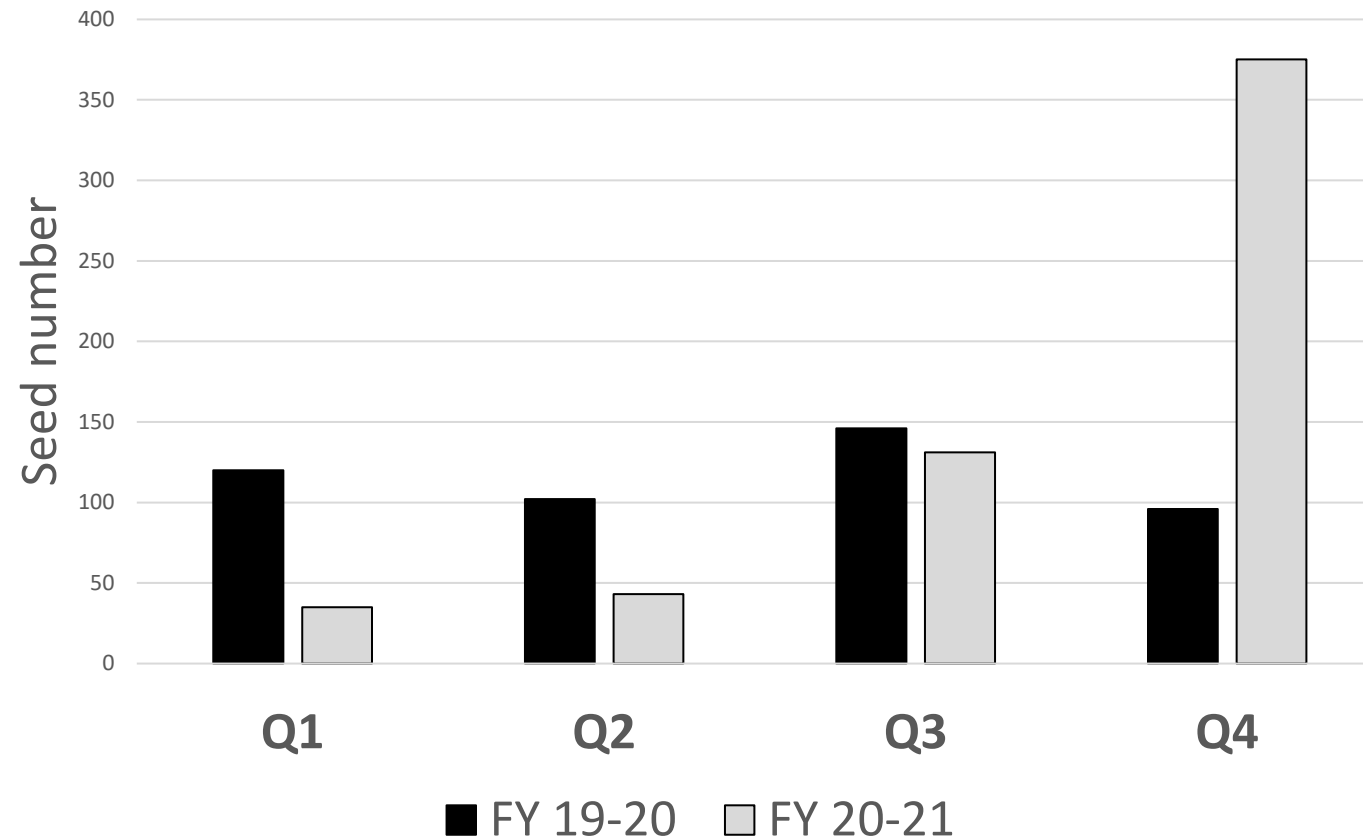
- Average: **46 days**
- Average, accounting for carryover from previous FY (samples processed after August, 21): **32 days**





## 4. Turnaround Time FY 20-21

- Average, Q1-Q3: **29 days**
- Average, Q4: **60 days**



## 4. Turnaround Time Compared to Other Labs

- Average: **46 days**
- Average, accounting for carryover from previous FY: **32 days**

State	Sample number	Average processing time (days)
Kansas	301	12
New York	568	31
Kentucky	1799	35
Louisiana	4236	45
<b>California</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>53 (2015); 46 or 32 (2021)</b>
Utah	609	56
Texas	4529	75
Pennsylvania	3000	84
Connecticut	375	180

**Seed Laboratory**  
**Report of Activities**  
**FY 20-21 & FY 21-22**

**Thank You!**