

Seed Laboratory
Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch-CDFFA

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

11-10-2021

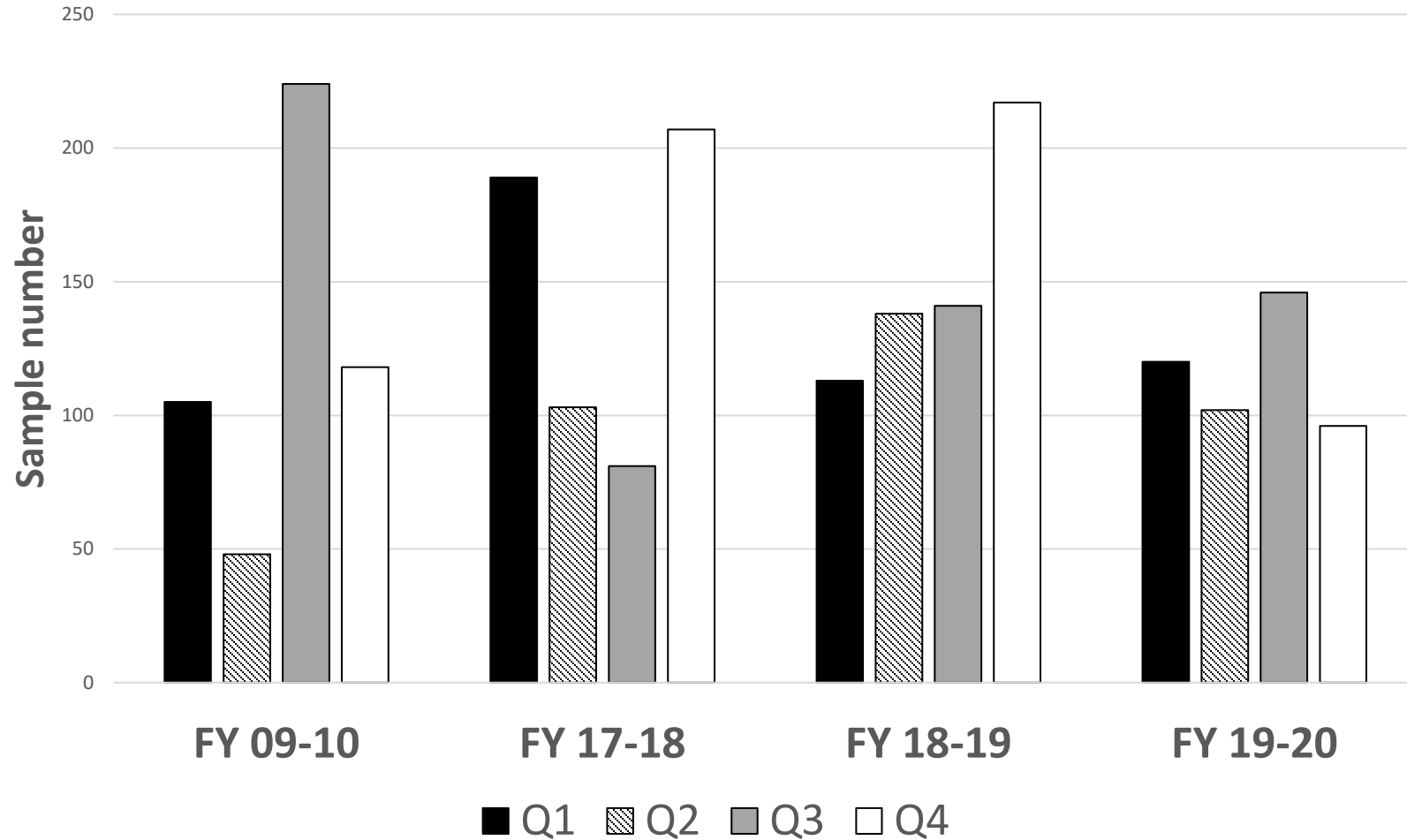
1. Label Compliance Testing Sample Numbers and Distribution

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

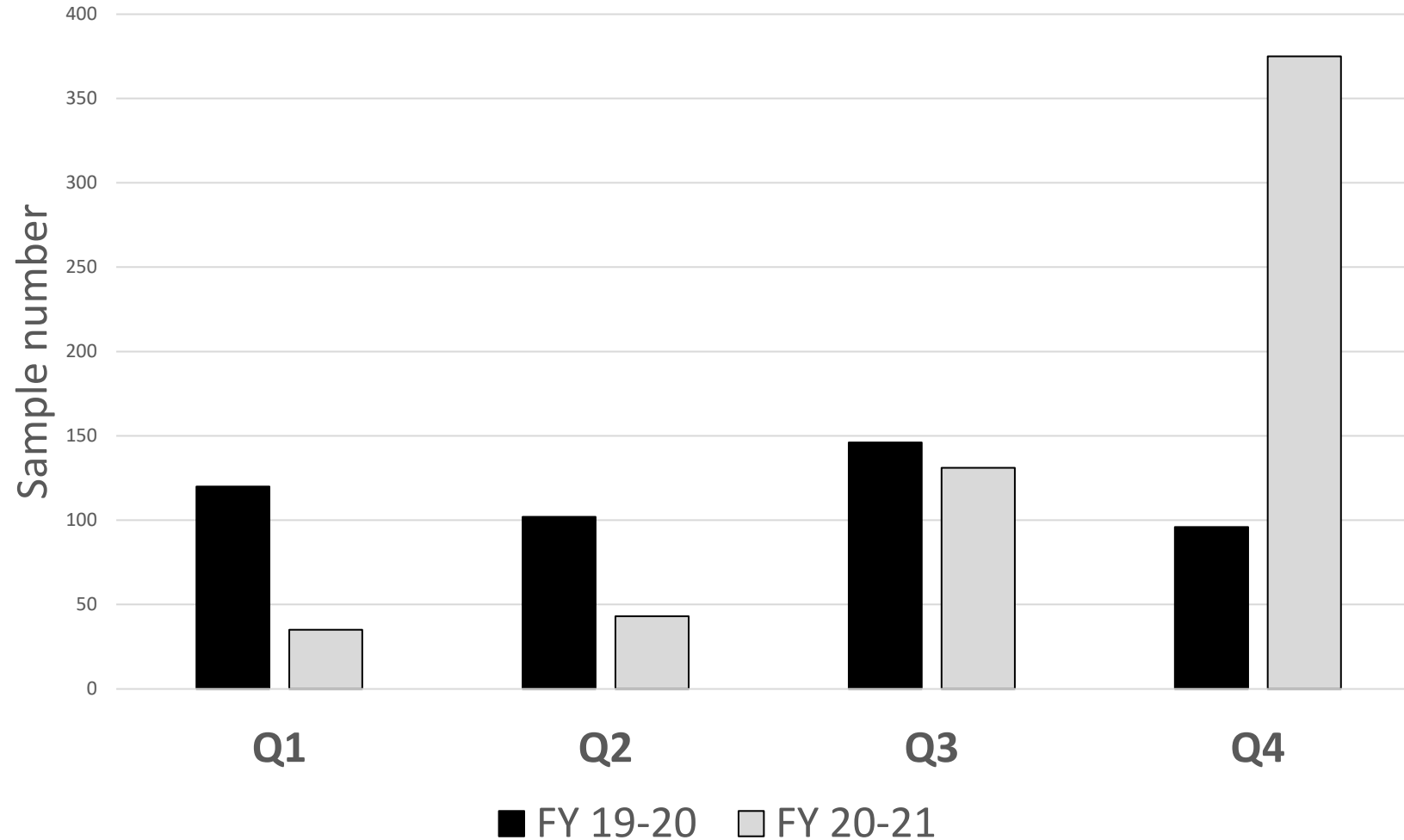
❖ **12.5%** of the set target of 600 per FY

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

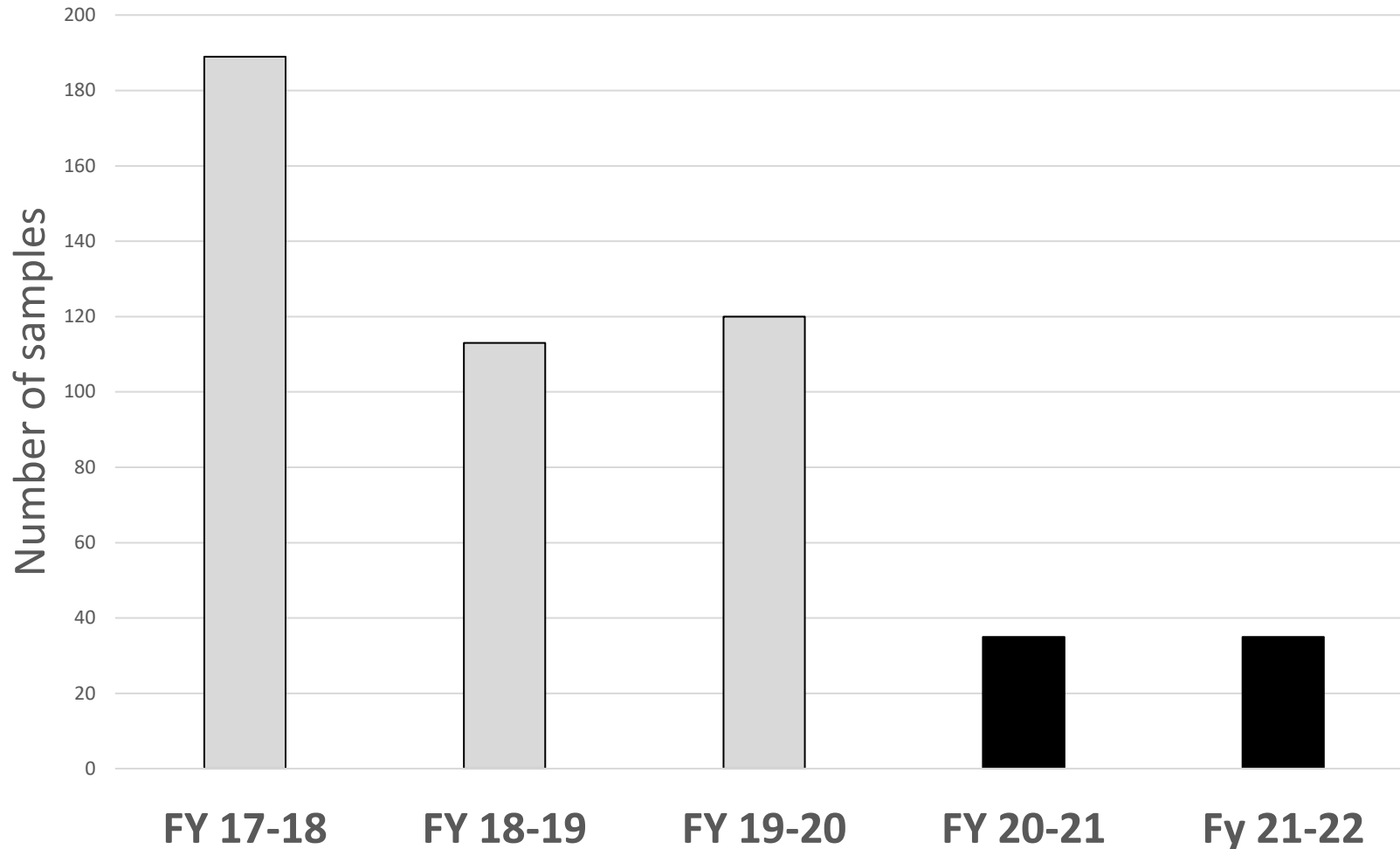
Number of regulatory samples released to Seed Lab per quarter; 'normal' years



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

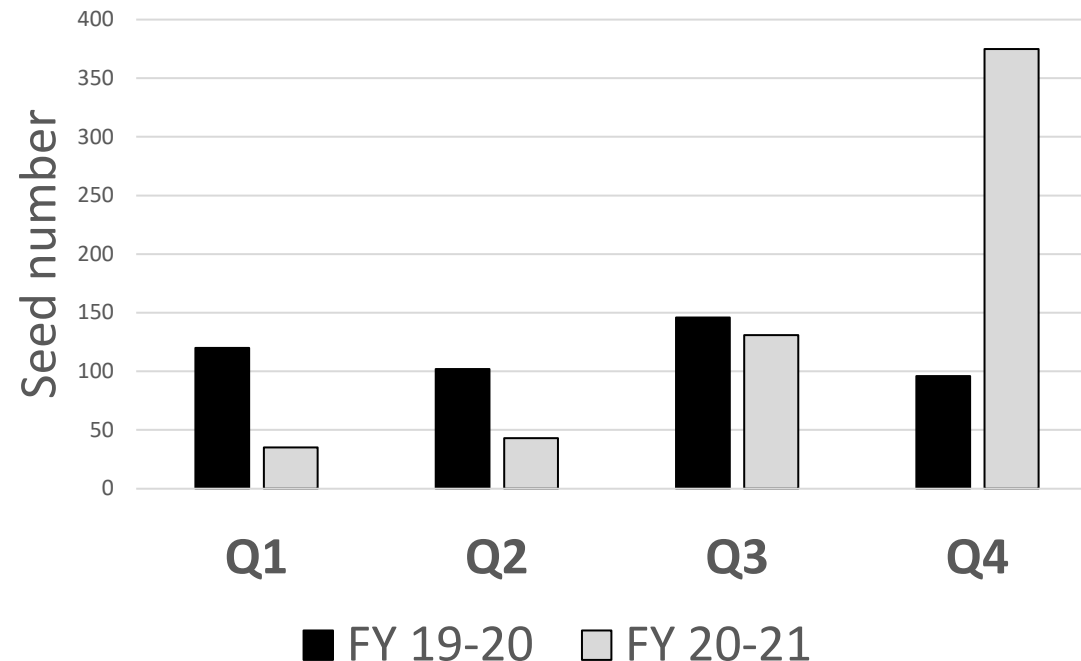
V. Seed Testing Lab Uniformity Study

- 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

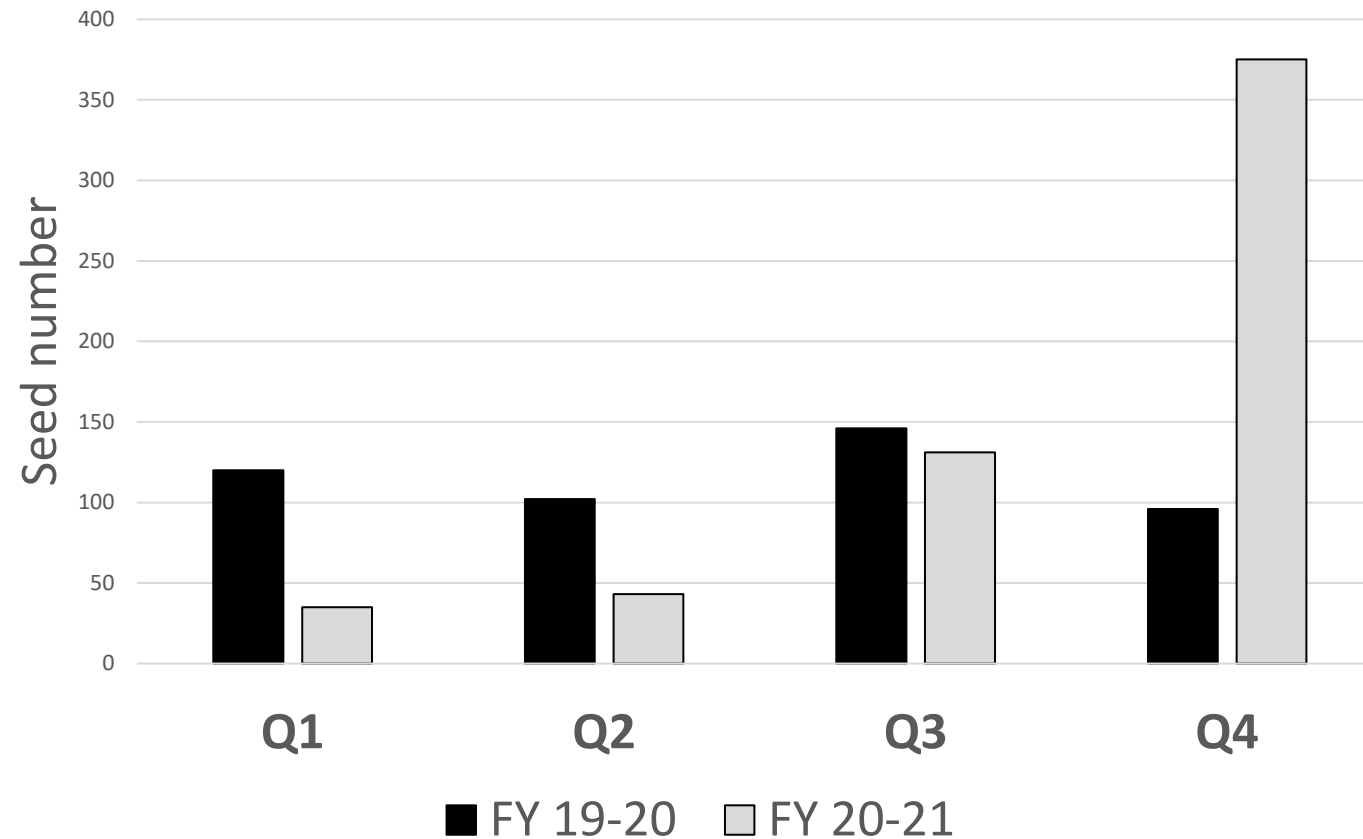
V. For completed samples or samples with known completion dates

- 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
California	505	53 (2015); 46 or 32 (2021)
Utah	609	56
Texas	4529	75
Pennsylvania	3000	84
Connecticut	375	180

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Thank You!