

Seed Certification/MySEEDS Survey

Thank you to all who participated in the survey, the information and views you have provided are important to us and help to guide future priorities in the section.

We received 19 responses which is fewer than when the survey was completed two years ago. Last time however, the survey was aimed particularly at crop inspectors as part of the consultation on development of MySEEDS.

The following is a summary of the responses received:

Unsurprisingly contact with us is generally seasonal or sporadic, only 13% of respondents contact Seed Certification section weekly. Most popular form of contact remains telephone with two thirds of respondents favouring that method although a third regularly contact us by email, this is identical to the figures two years ago. The main reasons for contacting SASA were for issues relating to seed testing and the certification schemes.

100% described the service they receive from the section as good or better with 58% classing it as excellent, a small increase on last time.

We asked about cost and value for money, there was an even split between those classing the fees as good value and those who felt they were slightly expensive 7.8% considered the services provided to be poor value. In another challenging year for agriculture this response is encouraging. However we continue to examine costs and charges closely.

The questionnaire then posed some questions on MySEEDS, slightly worryingly only 64% of respondents were aware of MySEEDS down from 84% of respondents two years ago although on a lower response so this may be influenced by which section of the industry returned the survey.

It does however demonstrate that there is still some work for us to do in publicising the service.

More encouraging is that 43% of those responding are now using the MySEEDS system regularly up from 38% in the previous survey. No-one responding found MySEEDS difficult or complicated, with 57% saying it was very easy to use.

Since the survey was issued we have been able to obtain some usage figures from MySEEDS.

These figures are extremely encouraging and show that more than 85% of seed lot and crop entries are now being made through the MySEEDS system.

Crop Applications				
applied for:	Paper forms	mySEEDS	TOTAL	% applied for through mySEEDS
1/7/2015 - 30/6/2016	590	386	976	40%
1/7/2016 - 30/6/2017	294	744	1038	72%
1/7/2017 - 06/8/2018	157	922	1079	85%
Seed Lot Applications				
applied for:	paper forms	mySEEDS	TOTAL	% applied for through mySEEDS
1/7/2015 - 30/6/2016	1210	745	1955	38%
1/7/2016 - 30/6/2017	443	1677	2120	79%
1/7/2017- 06/8/2018	283	1936	2219	87%
number of myseeds registered companies:	31			

The next question was for those who have used the system and allowed views on what people liked or disliked about MySEEDS. The responses were generally positive. Examples of comments:

Very quick and easy to find information relating to seed crops.

Once familiar with the system it is excellent

It is good

there could be a few improvements

Finally in the first section of the survey we asked those who hadn't used MySEEDS why they hadn't tried it yet and what might persuade them to do so. Comments received included:

We are merchants who buy seed from certified suppliers

I wasn't aware of it

possibly should have a look at what is available

Did not know about it

No need to use it

We do not import seeds, dress seed etc

From these responses it seems that there are businesses who either for reasons of scale or how their business operates don't believe that they need to use MySEEDS – however it is also clear that there are businesses out there who will consider using it in the future, we will consider how best we can support those who haven't adopted it yet to try it out.

Blackgrass

The final section of the survey was aimed at those managing and growing cereals and was included in response to concerns being expressed at recent stakeholder meetings regarding the spread of Blackgrass.

There were 14 responses to this section of the survey and interestingly no respondents considered that Blackgrass was becoming a serious problem in crops they managed, although 28% believed it was an increasing issue but not widespread, while 57% believed that the issue was not increasing.

When asked about the main risks to wider establishment of Blackgrass in Scotland 75% referred to contaminated seed while pesticide resistance, imported straw and machinery were considered to be other risk factors. Ploughing was considered to be a mitigating factor in reducing the risk for those farmers who do purchase in straw for bedding.

We will now take on board the results of the survey and consider all comments and recognising the areas where you have said we are doing well and looking to address any areas where you have suggested we could do better.

Thank you again for your participation.

If you have any further thoughts on any of the questions posed in the survey please do not hesitate to contact anyone in Seed Certification or email us at Seeds@sasa.gsi.gov.uk.