

Points for using Certified Seed

Quality

Genetic Purity - Tracking genetic purity is the most important and unique responsibility of a seed certification agency

- Mechanical Purity – Mechanical Purity standards are higher for Certified Seed

Managing Farming Risks *Excerpts from: Seed Today magazine 'Higher Stakes' Chet Boruff AOSCA executive*

- Certified seed may be taken for granted, but it provides consistent assurance that growers are buying the highest quality seed and the purest varieties possible.
- In the end, a farmer who sees the familiar Certified "Blue Tag" on the bag or container of seed knows there is one less thing to worry about and one less variable to manage.
- In nearly all we do, how we play our cards determines our success. Planting certified seed is a sure bet for producers. It is one of the most cost-effective ways they can manage risk in this high-stakes game that could make or break their businesses.

Other points

- In practically all cases it is more profitable for the farmer to pay slightly more for the best seed available than to accept cheaper seed of doubtful origin or inferior performance.
- By using certified seed you get peace of mind and the latest in forage technology, while contributing to innovation in future forage varieties as well.

Common seed

- While Certified seed has verifiable performance and reliability, common seed does not. You pay less for it because you are getting less. You don't know what genetic background you are buying and you don't know if what you are buying is adapted to your conditions, has the disease resistance you want or the quality characteristics you need. Not only that, but there has been no field inspection during seed production. You only know that it meets the lower purity and germination standards allowed compared to Certified.
- Brands are not varieties, they are common seed too.

Value and Affordability

- The reality is that you lose more in production, quality or performance than you save by buying common seed. Example: a good forage grower with a yield of 5 Tons per acre on 25 acres can obtain a 10 % yield advantage. With this 10% yield advantage this grower is producing an extra 12.5 tons of hay annually.
- Can you afford not to buy Certified?