

SureSeed[®]

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW SEED PROGRAM TO ENSURE GRAIN QUALITY

The first seed lots of cereal grains inspected and produced within the new SureSeed[®] Program will soon be processed and available for sale.

Executive Director Rural Solutions SA Locky McLaren said the SureSeed[®] Program was developed jointly by Seed Services Australia, a business unit of Rural Solutions SA and AGWEST Plant Laboratories part of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia, in response to industry demand for a single accreditation standard for broad acre crop seed sold in bulk or bagged seed lots.

Mr McLaren said Australian farmers had long recognised the importance of sowing high quality seed in their cropping programs.

“The SureSeed[®] Program uses quality assurance principles together with procedures and standards based on those of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development seed schemes, to produce seed of known varietal identity and purity,” he said.

Mr McLaren said the SureSeed[®] Program for broadacre crop seeds would complement Seed Services Australia’s existing seed certification schemes for pasture and field crop seed varieties.

“Primarily it provides a quality assurance framework for seed growers and seed companies to demonstrate the production of seed that is true to variety name and is of known physical quality and identifies the presence of weed seeds and nominated seed-borne diseases,” he said.

“Enrolled crops are inspected by highly trained inspectors at appropriate times of the season, and then the seed is tested after processing.

“After seed purity, germination, weed seed identification and other tests are completed a certificate of analysis headed ‘SureSeed[®] Program’ will be issued by the agency conducting the testing.”

Seed tests are conducted in accordance with the rules of the International Seed Testing Association and all SureSeed[®] seed lots are to be sold in accordance with the Australian Seed Federation Code of Practice for Labelling and Marketing of Seed.

“The analytical certificate is the primary document that buyers will use to determine that the quality of the seed meets their needs, particularly where seed is sold in bulk.”

Mr McLaren said seed quality assurance schemes were aimed at minimising the risk of serious varietal contamination, as new varieties are multiplied from a small amount of breeder’s seed into the thousands of tonnes required by industry.

“Millions of dollars may be lost to industry when new variety releases are delayed due to quality issues,” he said.

For more information on the new SureSeed[®] Program contact Seed Services Australia on (08) 8303 9549 or visit www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au/seeds