Benefits of sowing correct varieties

Summary

Sowing poor quality seed, or seed of questionable origin, risks large losses in income.

Dairy farm example

This example compares sowing the high quality perennial ryegrass *Arrow* with *Plus AR1* endophyte, versus 'cheap' seed, over a five year period.

Arrow has produced an additional 2 t DM/ha per year than 'uncertified seed' in the National Forage Variety Trials (see page 53). This example does not include the advantage of *Plus AR1* (see page 62) or better seasonal growth.

	Certified *Arrow Plus AR1*	Uncertified seed	Comment
Cost	**$180/ha** (20 kg/ha @ $9.00/kg)	**$40/ha** (20 kg/ha @ $2/kg)	**$140/ha extra for quality seed**
Income	**$26,010/ha** over 5 years (15.3 t DM/ha/yr = 1020 kg MS/ha/yr* @ $5.10/kg MS)	**$22,610/ha** over 5 years (13.3 t DM/ha/yr = 886 kg MS/ha/yr* @ $5.10/kg MS)	**$3400/ha extra from quality seed**
Conversion efficiency of 15kg DM/kg MS.			

This does not include costs of production, but it gives an indication of the massive potential loss from sowing poor quality seed.

Breeding ewe example

This example compares sowing the high quality ryegrass *Alto* with *Plus AR1* endophyte, versus 'cheap' seed, measured over a three year period. We assume *Alto* has a 20% yield advantage, which is **conservative** based on trial data collected on uncertified seed.

This example does not include the additional advantage of *Plus AR1* (see page 61) or *Alto's* improved late spring feed quality, and excellent winter and summer growth.

	Certified *Alto Plus AR1*	Uncertified seed	Comment
Cost	**$180/ha** (20 kg/ha @ $9.00/kg)	**$40/ha** (20 kg/ha @ $2/kg)	**$140 / ha extra for quality seed**
Income	**$6936/ha** over 5 years (12,000 kg DM/ha/yr = 13.6 ewes/ha* @ $102/ewe)	**$5763/ha** over 5 years (10,000 kg DM/ha/yr = 11.3 ewes/ha* @ $102/ewe)	**$1173 / ha extra from quality seed**
Assumptions: Alto has 20% yield advantage. *75% pasture utilisation; a ewe requires 660 kg DM/year intake & returns 1.2 lambs (@ $75/lamb) plus 4.5 kg wool ($12) = $102/ewe.			

This does not include costs of production, but it gives an indication of the massive potential losses of sowing poor quality seed.