



Bundessortenamt

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# Recent developments in German VCU-testing

Ongoing revision of sugar beet and soybean VCU

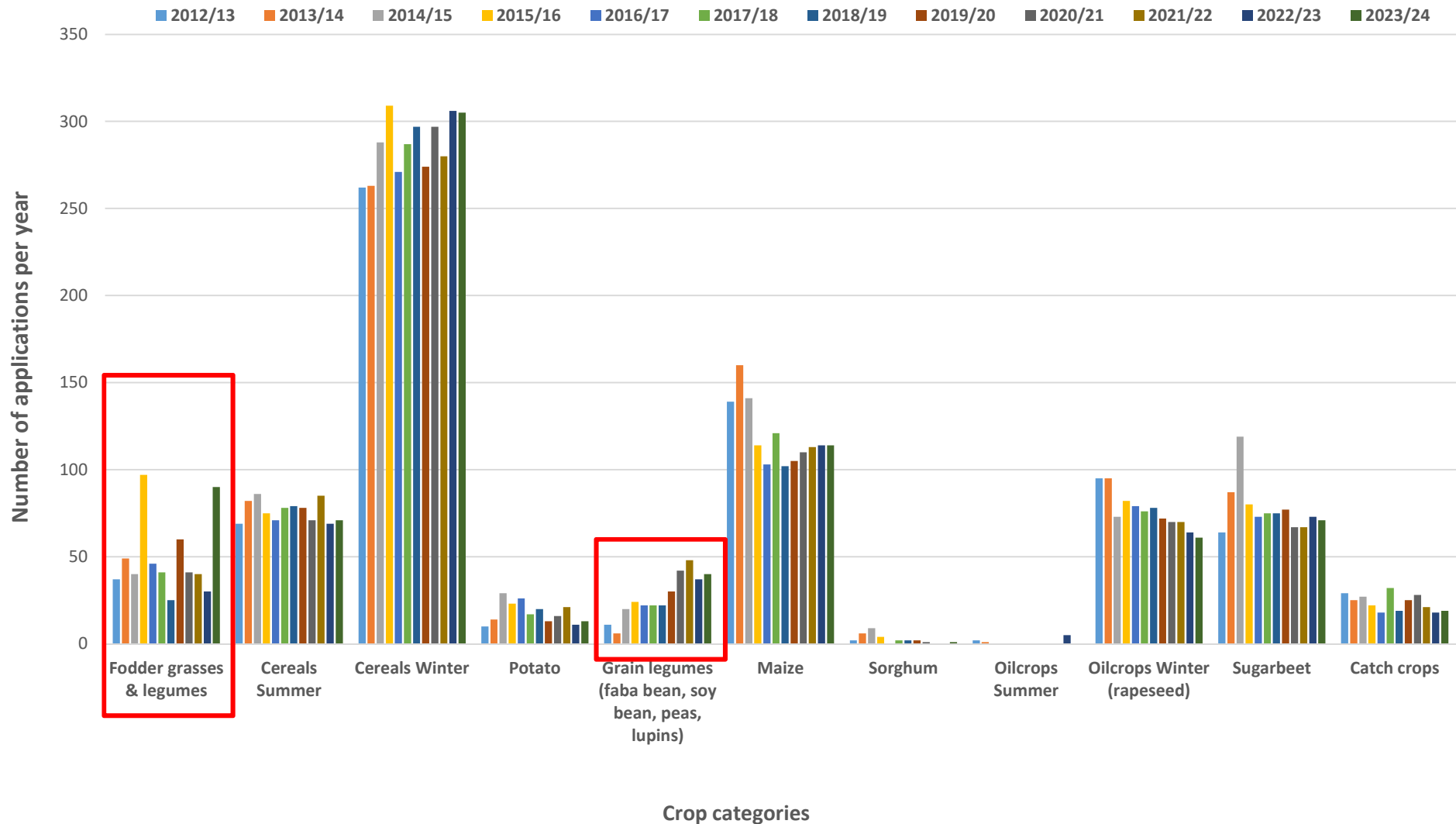
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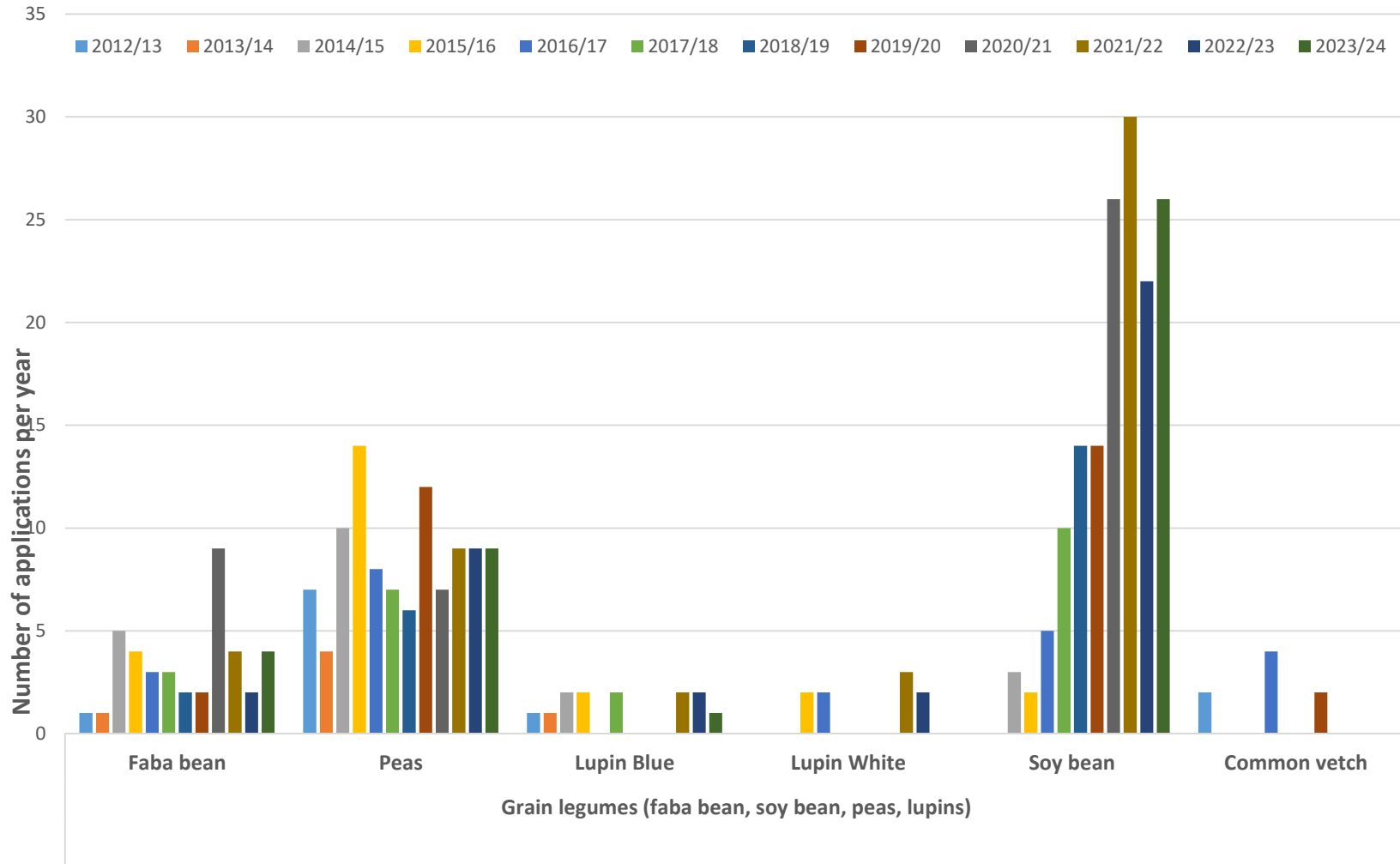


## Number of applications for national listing 2013 – 2024 (with VCU)



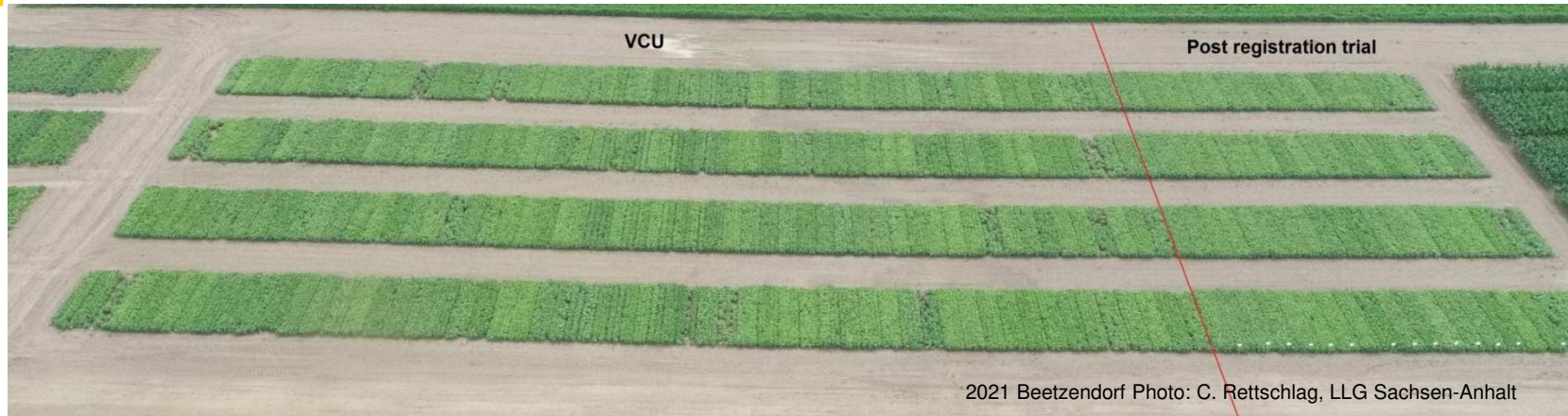


## Grain legumes - number of applications for national listing 2013 - 2024





## Revision of VCU protocol for soybean in 2021



- 2021 Introduction of maturity groups for harvest:  
very early, early, middle-early
- Reason: large number of entries (2024 57; 7 very early, 39 early, 10 middle-early harvest group)
- Before: Individual harvest date per variety



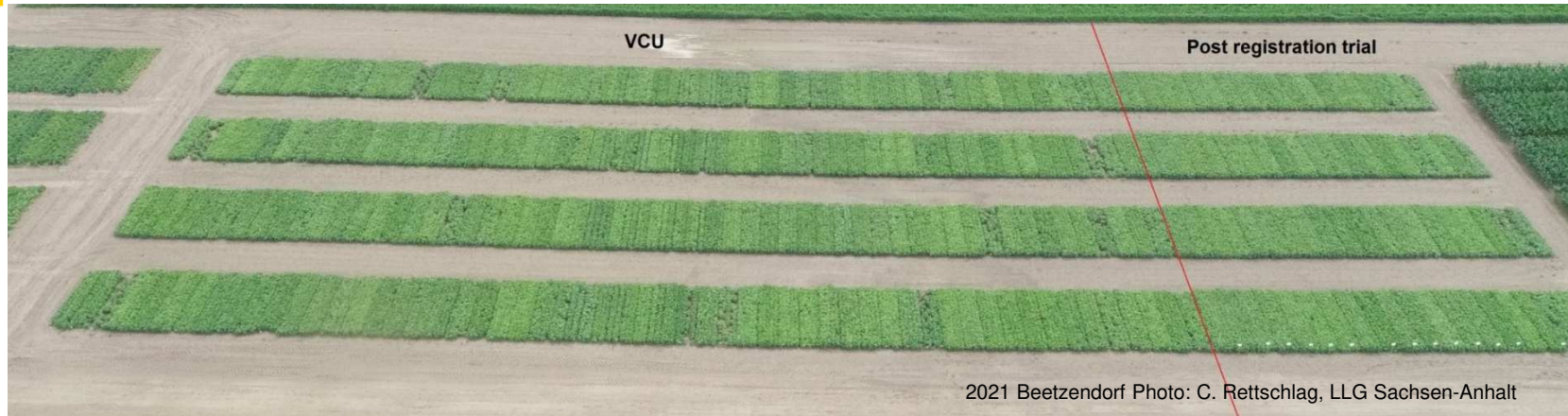
## Challenges in VCU testing of soybean



Photos: Stever, BSA



## Soybean - experiences since 2021



Experiences so far:

- **Large variety x location x year interactions for ripening**
- Finding stable check/standard varieties is difficult
- Initial grouping according to breeders information into harvest groups is crucial but does not fit well
- Ripening of varieties is sometimes fast and not predictable between locations, thus finding the right harvest date per harvest group is problematic

**=> In order to generate more reliable results and variety descriptions and options for altering the VCU system are discussed with stakeholders (breeders, states, science)**



## VCU topics sugarbeet





## 2024 - Adaptation of sugarbeet VCU testing system

Trial series ->	VCU Year 1		VCU Year 2		Nematodes	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
No. Varieties	83	83	51	51	82	82
Intensity levels	2	1	2	1	1	1
Repetitions	2	3	2	3	4	3
No. of locations	18	16	19	17	18	12
Total no. plots	5976	3984	3876	2601	5904	2952

Special trial series	Rhizoctonia	(12 varieties, 8 locations)
	SBR	(40 varieties, 17 locations)
	Yellowing viruses	(18 varieties, 4 locations)
	Rizomania	(46 varieties, 7 locations)
	Herbicide tolerance	(17 varieties, green house)





## Revised VCU protocol for maize starting 2024

### Major changes

- Seeding end distance allowed (before: minimum of 140 % seeding rate with hand singling)
  - Minimum harvest plot size 7,8 m<sup>2</sup> and 60 single plants
- ⇒ Extended seeding options gives greater flexibility for trial conductors
- ⇒ Adaptation ensures practicability and thus involvement of VCU systems





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**Thank you  
for your attention!**



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