

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Plant Industry Services in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year (July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012), a total of 676,987 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 83,657 tons or 11% below the 2010-2011 reported tonnage of 760,644 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes soil amendments, and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2011-2012 was 468,289 tons which is a decrease of 47,205 tons or 9% below the farm use tonnage for 2010-2011 of 515,494. Non-farm use tonnage for 2011-2012 was 208,698 tons which is a decrease of 36,451 tons or 15% below the 2010-2011 reported tonnage of 245,149.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 496,799 tons sold during the 2011-2012 fiscal year. This is an increase of 53,188 tons or 12% above fiscal year 2010-2011 reported tonnage of 443,611.