

## 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 2012-2013 fiscal year (July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013), a total of 808,405 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 131,418 tons or 19% above the 2011-2012 reported tonnage of 676,987 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes soil amendments, and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2012-2013 was 551,369 tons which is an increase of 83,080 tons or 18% above the farm use tonnage for 2011-2012 of 468,289. Non-farm use tonnage for 2012-2013 was 257,035 tons which is an increase of 48,337 tons or 23% above the 2011-2012 reported tonnage of 208,698.

The suppliers of agricultural liming materials reported 471,057 tons sold during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 25,742 tons or 5% below fiscal year 2011-2012 reported tonnage of 496,799.