

## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Product and Industry Standards 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 2008-2009 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 692,033 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 110,290 tons or 16% below the 2007-2008 reported tonnage of 802,323 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2008-2009 was 407,402 tons which is a decrease of 91,469 tons or 22% below the farm use tonnage for 2007-2008 of 498,871. Non-farm use tonnage for 2008-2009 was 284,631 tons which is a decrease of 18,821 tons or 6% below the 2007-2008 reported tonnage of 303,452.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 374,935 tons sold during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 268,267 tons or 28% below fiscal year 2007-2008 reported tonnage of 643,202.