

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 2013-2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014), a total of 753,098 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 55,307 tons or 7% below the 2012-2013 reported tonnage of 808,405 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes soil amendments, and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2013-2014 was 561,666 tons which is an increase of 10,297 tons or 2% above the farm use tonnage for 2012-2013 of 551,369. Non-farm use tonnage for 2013-2014 was 191,432 tons which is a decrease of 65,603 tons or 26% below the 2012-2013 reported tonnage of 257,035.

The suppliers of agricultural liming materials reported 447,651 tons sold during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 23,406 tons or 5% below fiscal year 2012-2013 reported tonnage of 471,057.