

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 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 839,724 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 12,955 tons or 1.5% above the 2015-2016 reported tonnage of 826,769 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2016-2017 was 618,242 tons which is a decrease of 7,353 tons or 1% below the farm use tonnage for 2015-2016 of 625,595. Non-farm use tonnage for 2016-2017 was 221,481 tons which is an increase of 20,307 tons or 10% above the 2015-2016 reported tonnage of 201,174.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 478,465 tons sold during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This is an increase of 27,075 tons or 6% above fiscal year 2015-2016 reported tonnage of 451,390.