

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 2017-18 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 843,159 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 3,435 tons or .4% above the 2016-2017 reported tonnage of 839,724 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2017-2018 was 625,166 tons which is an increase of 6,924 tons or 1% above the farm use tonnage for 2016-2017 of 618,242. Non-farm use tonnage for 2017-2018 was 217,992 tons which is a decrease of 3,489 tons or 1.5% below the 2016-2017 reported tonnage of 221,481.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 437,177 tons sold during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 41,288 tons or 9% below fiscal year 2016-2017 reported tonnage of 478,465.