

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 2018-19 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 820,396 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 22,763 tons or 2.7% below the 2017-2018 reported tonnage of 843,159 tons. This number excludes lime; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2018-2019 was 602,583 tons which is a decrease of 22,583 tons or 3.6% below the farm use tonnage for 2017-2018 of 625,166. Non-farm use tonnage for 2018-2019 was 217,812 tons which is a decrease of 180 tons or .08% below the 2017-2018 reported tonnage of 217,992.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 307,382 tons sold during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 129,795 tons or 29.6% below fiscal year 2017-2018 reported tonnage of 437,177.