

## 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 2019-20 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 951,404 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 131,008 tons or 14% above the 2018-2019 reported tonnage of 820,396 tons. This number excludes lime; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2019-2020 was 639,236 tons which is an increase of 36,653 tons or 6% above the farm use tonnage for 2018-2019 of 602,583. Non-farm use tonnage for 2019-2020 was 312,167 tons which is an increase of 94,355 tons or 30% above the 2018-2019 reported tonnage of 217,812.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 503,372 tons sold during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This is an increase of 195,990 tons or 39% above fiscal year 2018-2019 reported tonnage of 307,382.