

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 2021-22 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 940,658 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 62,005 tons or 7% above the 2020-2021 reported tonnage of 878,653 tons. This number excludes lime; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2021-2022 was 681,807 tons which is an increase of 89,554 tons or 15% above the farm use tonnage for 2020-2021 of 592,253. Non-farm use tonnage for 2021-2022 was 258,850 tons which is a decrease of 27,549 tons or 9% below the 2020-2021 reported tonnage of 286,399.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 524,331 tons sold during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This is an increase of 108,732 tons or 26% above fiscal year 2020-2021 reported tonnage of 415,599.