

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 2022-23 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 953,512 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 12,854 tons or 1% above the 2021-2022 reported tonnage of 940,658 tons. This number excludes lime; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2022-2023 was 735,536 tons which is an increase of 53,729 tons or 7% above the farm use tonnage for 2021-2022 of 681,807. Non-farm use tonnage for 2022-2023 was 217,976 tons which is a decrease of 40,874 tons or 15% below the 2021-2022 reported tonnage of 258,850.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 525,257 tons sold during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This is an increase of 926 tons or .1% above fiscal year 2021-2022 reported tonnage of 524,331.