

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Product and Industry Standards 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 2007-2008 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 802,323 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 46,075 tons or 6% below the 2006-2007 reported tonnage of 848,398 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2007-2008 was 498,871 tons which is a decrease of 82,931 tons or 17% below the farm use tonnage for 2006-2007 of 581,802. Non-farm use tonnage for 2007-2008 was 303,452 tons which is an increase of 36,857 tons or 13% above the 2006-2007 reported tonnage of 266,595.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 643,202 tons sold during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. This is an increase of 174,166 tons or 27% above fiscal year 2006-2007 reported tonnage of 469,036.