

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 2023-24 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 842,378 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 111,134 tons or 13% below the 2022-2023 reported tonnage of 953,512 tons. This number excludes lime; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2023-2024 was 575,368 tons which is a decrease of 160,168 tons or 21% below the farm use tonnage for 2022-2023 of 735,536. Non-farm use tonnage for 2023-2024 was 267,009 tons which is an increase of 49,033 tons or 18% above the 2022-2023 reported tonnage of 217,976.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 521,177 tons sold during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 4,080 tons or .7% below fiscal year 2022-2023 reported tonnage of 525,257.