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| FERTILIZER PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORT | 2016 |
| This report outlines the major accomplishments and results of Maine’s 2016 Fertilizer Quality Control Program produced in accordance with MRS Title 7. Our mission statement for this program is to serve, promote and protect the Agricultural Producers, and Retail Consumers of the State of Maine by continuously working to improve the quality of fertilizer products sold in Maine. | |

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**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry**

**Division of Quality Assurance & Regulations**

This report outlines the major accomplishments and results of Maine’s 2016 Fertilizer Quality Control Program produced in accordance with MRS Title 7. An annual report is required to be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters, which is authorized to report out a bill.

Accomplishments and goals from last year’s report were achieved. Through legislative changes in the statute language in 2015, warnings and penalties for non-compliances and deficiencies can now be implemented. A database has been created to calculate and track these non-compliances and deficiencies.

Confidential survey letters were sent to all registrants requesting retail prices per ton of fertilizer materials used in their products. Based on the survey’s response, the unit prices for total nitrogen (N), available phosphate (P₂O₅) and soluble potash (K₂O) were calculated and posted on the department’s web site as required by statute. These values must be used in determining and assessing penalty payments.

In accordance with our statute, specifically §745 Inspection, sampling and analysis the department utilized a recognized referee lab to analyze the results of the official fertilizer samples received from the other labs. This was to verify that current AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists) International methods were being followed to analyze official samples to be in compliance with the statute and also to maintain transparency to the consumer and industry during the development of the program. No nutrient deficiencies were issued this past year as the lab methods are being verified and validated. Letters were sent to the growers and suppliers as soon as the results were received.

Compliance letters have been sent out in 2016 to companies for failure to register their products being sold in the state of Maine and failure to report their tonnage being sold in the state of Maine. The amount of samples this past year has been reduced to allow for the implementation of the legislative changes to complete the fertilizer program in accordance with the Fertilizer Law. These changes increased the administrative and analytical duties to manage the program.

Labeling of fertilizer products has been of major concern for our program. Last fall, the Department conducted a power point presentation to the industry reviewing all the legislative changes.

The presentation included the requirements for product labeling in accordance with §744 Labeling which states: any commercial fertilizer distributed in this State in containers must have placed on or affixed to the container a label setting forth in clearly legible form the information required by section 743, subsections 1 to 5. If distributed in bulk, a written or printed statement of the information required by section 743, subsections 1 to 5, must accompany delivery and be supplied to the purchaser at time of delivery.

New product labels are reviewed prior to approval for registration to ensure both Agricultural Producers, and Retail Consumers are properly informed of the safe use of fertilizers and are purchasing product as stated on the label which has been verified through sampling and laboratory analysis.

In 2014, the blend plants paid $44,020 for registrations and tonnage fees. The tonnage fees paid by the plants represented approximately 44% of the revenue going into the dedicated account to fund the program. No tonnage fees were collected in 2015 after the passage of Bill LD938 which eliminated tonnage fees. In 2016, the blend plants paid $12,250 in registration fees which represented approximately 2.58% of the registration revenue. The cost to the blend plants which was ultimately passed on to the Maine consumer was reduced by 69.39% after the elimination of the tonnage fees.

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**SAMPLING DATA**

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Average 16.6%

**TONNAGE DATA**

**FERTILIZER SUMMARY**

**DIVISION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE & REGULATIONS – MAINE**

**(Example of Tonnage Report Summary for 2016)**

**TONNAGE REPORT**

**From: July, 2015 to June, 2016**

**CONTAINER** **USE**

TOTAL BAG BULK LIQUID FARM NONFARM

MULTI-NUTRIENT 37,846.00 11,793.00 22,420.00 3,633.00 28,626.00 9,220.00

NITROGEN 24,085.00 753.00 17,768.00 5,564.00 23,803.00 282.00

PHOSPHATE 60.00 51.00 0.00 9.00 28.00 32.00

POTASH 15,424.00 254.00 15,081.00 89.00 15,197.00 227.00

ORGANICS 3,684.00 3,361.00 320.00 3.00 279.00 3,405.00

SEC/MICRO 5,010.00 4,712.00 134.00 164.00 500.00 4,510.00

LIME 19,527.00 2,922.00 16,603.00 2.00 17,256.00 2,271.00

MISCELLANEOUS 782.09 157.09 569.00 56.00 606.00 176.09

**TOTAL 106,418.09 24,003.09 72,895.00 9,520.00 86,295.00 20,123.09**

**PRODUCT REGISTRATION**

Values from Data Advice for Period : 11/1/15 to 9/30/16

**LAB DATA**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***LAB TURN AROUND SUMMARY REPORT*** | | | | | | | |
| Averages | Number of Samples | Sample Date to time to lab (Days) | Days for Results after Lab Rec'd | Days from sent to results | Total Days (Sample to Result) | Letters Sent (Days) | Posted (Days) |
| Overall Average (All) |  | 3.20 | 13.01 | 15.89 | 18.09 | 1 | 1 |
| (HP) High Priority Average (All) |  | 3.19 | 13.00 | 15.89 | 18.08 | 1 | 1 |
| (LP) Low Priority Average (All) | | 3.15 | 16.91 | 19.22 | 21.38 | 1 | 1 |
| ***INDIVIDUAL LAB TURN AROUND DATA*** | | | | | | | |
| UMO HP | 71 | 3.34 | 16.94 | 17.61 | 19.94 | 1 | 1 |
| UMO LP | 33 | 2.79 | 22.91 | 26.36 | 28.15 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 104 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spectrum HP | 60 | 3.25 | 2.90 | 8.10 | 10.35 | 1 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Samples | 164 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***REFEREE LAB TURN AROUND DATA*** | | | | | | | |
| Thornton | 15 | NA | 6.47 | 8.47 | NA | NA | NA |

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