Service Testing

Soils

Our soil testing laboratories assist Kentucky producers and homeowners by testing soils for nutrient and pH levels. We also analyze greenhouse media, water, mine spoil, and animal manure samples. Results from our testing program are accompanied with recommendations for lime and fertilizer that can be used to supply plant nutrients. Interested parties should contact their local county extension office. County extension office information is available at:

www.ca.uky.edu/county

An agent will send samples to our laboratory, review results, and discuss recommendations when test results are available.

Seed

Our seed testing laboratory provides comprehensive and affordable testing to producers, homeowners, dealers, researchers, and governmental agencies for many kinds of seed. The lab is a member of the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), which means we follow official procedures for routine and specialty analyses that determine the quality of seed. Laboratory staff provides technical assistance and educational information to manufacturers, processors, sellers, and users of seed and seed products. Every Kentucky citizen may annually request one complimentary purity and germination analysis.

Facilities

Our main office and laboratory facility are located in the Bruce Poundstone Building on the south side of UK’s Lexington campus. An additional soils laboratory is located at the Research and Education Center at Princeton. Our labs provide detailed analyses of feed, fertilizer, milk, seed, and soil and have significantly contributed to our reputation as a leader in agricultural regulatory and service programs.

Division of Regulatory Services

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Protecting Kentucky Consumers and Producers

Regulatory Services has been an integral part of protecting consumers and serving Kentucky agriculture for more than a century. Today, our role is more important than ever.

As part of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station in the UK College of Agriculture, the Division of Regulatory Services is an important partner in protecting Kentucky consumers. We administer regulatory programs for feed, fertilizer, milk, and seed as well as service testing programs for soil and seed. Our professional team includes program coordinators, laboratory analysts, field inspectors, and support staff. Our programs and those who work in them protect consumers, producers, and businesses. We monitor product quality, evaluate label information, reduce illegitimate claims, and provide unbiased recommendations. We strongly emphasize outreach and use research-based education in all our programs.

Statewide Inspection Program

Our inspection staff regularly visit agribusinesses and other distribution outlets across the state to review product labels, obtain samples for monitoring product quality, review records, and monitor manufacturing and distribution processes. Inspectors often provide stakeholders with information to help them maintain compliance with laws and regulations and improve processes and product quality.
**Feed**

The Kentucky Commercial Feed Law provides protection for buyers of feed ingredients and finished feed for beef, dairy, equine, poultry, swine, goats, sheep, other livestock, and pets. The law enables safe and quality feed production through a program of product registration and monitoring and tonnage reporting. Field inspectors sample feed products to monitor nutrient content and detect the presence of any harmful substances. Staff in the feed program work closely with state and federal agencies to provide safe animal feeds and promote confidence in our food supply. Feed manufacturers are routinely monitored for compliance with good manufacturing practices to further ensure the safety of our food supply, including those practices that guard against BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), commonly known as “mad cow disease.” The feed program also monitors for compliance with requirements for medicated feed production.

**Fertilizer**

The staff of the fertilizer program administers the Kentucky Fertilizer Law with integrity. The program promotes a fair marketplace, cooperates with professionals, and provides assistance and education to agribusiness. The fertilizer program has three primary functions—product registration, sampling and analysis to monitor quality, and tonnage reporting. Registration requires clear, uniform, and accurate labels for all products offered for sale. Quality monitoring is used to compare product contents with label guarantees. Reporting of sales is handled by tracking tonnage of fertilizer distributed in the state. These activities benefit both the seller and buyer of fertilizer materials.

**Milk**

The milk program ensures that raw milk produced or marketed in Kentucky is bought and sold using accurate weights and testing methods. Monitoring of raw milk handling begins at the farm with the sampling and weighing of milk and continues through delivery at the dairy plant. We also monitor laboratories that analyze samples for payment, and we conduct thorough record reviews of milk marketing agency payments to producers. The program issues licenses and monitors activities of milk haulers, laboratory analysts, laboratories, transfer stations, and milk buyers. Our laboratory in Lexington conducts a wide array of testing to support program efforts and to provide testing services to Kentucky’s dairy industry.

**Seed**

The Kentucky Seed Law protects buyers and sellers of seed products through an effective registration, labeling, sampling, and testing program. Properly labeled seed lists the amount of pure seed, inert matter, other crop and weed seed, percent germination, the date tested, and other important information. The seed program ensures compliance with the law by inspecting facilities and sampling seed offered for sale throughout the state. Seed program personnel work closely with federal agencies to monitor labeling and quality of seed shipped into Kentucky. Laboratory analyses of official samples are compared to label guarantees to verify that the label is accurate and that seed quality meets a minimum standard based on official test methods.