Regulatory Services News

Vol. 54, No. 4 Feed - Fertilizer - Milk - Seed - Seed Testing - Soil Testing Winter 2010

Director's Digest

As you will read in more detail later in this newsletter, the Division is experiencing some personnel changes. Chris Thompson is moving from the Milk Regulatory Program to the Seed Regulatory Program on December 1. Chris has led the Milk Program for several years while expanding its role in the Kentucky dairy industry.

Danny Reid will end his long-time service to the College (39 years) and as supervisor (33 years) of the soil testing lab in Lexington as he retires on December 31. Danny supervised the lab when it was in Scovell Hall and has continued in that role during the 20 years we have been located in the Poundstone Building.

Jesse Whitehouse retired as a specialty product inspector on September 30 after covering Jefferson Co. and the area east of I-65 in Kentucky. Jesse visited many retail outlets, large and small, to inspect and sample various pet and animal foods, small containers of plant food, and garden and lawn seeds which are most often sold in small packages. In the past this Division was mostly dealing with products for farmers and other agricultural producers. Today about 10,000 of the 19,000 feed products registered in Kentucky are for pet and other companion animal feed and 30% of complete feed tonnage sold in Kentucky is from these products.

An important point to gather from these personnel changes is the high level of dedication our employees have and will continue to display in providing information and in monitoring product safety. While we cannot replace these many years of dedicated experience immediately, it does provide an opportunity for newer employees to take active roles in consumer protection activities with agribusiness and other retail markets.

Bill Thom
Director

What's inside...

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SURVEY OF COMMERCIAL VALUES OF FERTILIZER NUTRIENTS

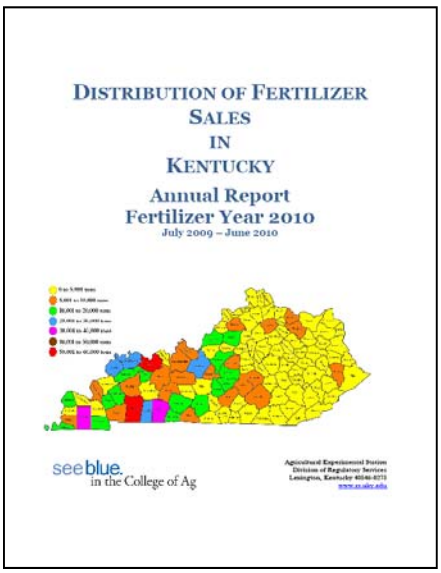
Over the next few weeks you will receive or you may have already received a survey to determine the commercial values of fertilizer nutrients. Under the provisions of KRS 250.401, I am conducting a survey to determine the commercial values of the fertilizer nutrients for Calendar Year 2011. This survey is of utmost importance for the Division as well as the retail community of fertilizer sales. The values will be published and used in determining and assessing penalty payments if needed. Due to the fluctuating prices over the past several years it is important that we include as many surveys as possible. Our inspection staff will be asking if you have received and/or responded to this survey. Please note that we want the current retail value of fertilizers in dollars per ton. All information will, of course, be held in strict confidence. You can give the survey to your respective inspector or fax to 859-257-9478 to the attention of Steve McMurry or e-mail to smcmurry@uky.edu.

Last year's values are located on our website below:

http://www.rs.uky.edu/regulatory/fertilizer/index.php

Stephen McMurry
Fertilizer Program

DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZER SALES IN KENTUCKY Annual Report (*July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010*)



This report provides data on fertilizer movement in Kentucky for the 2010 Fertilizer Year. The report shows total distribution for the current period and the previous comparable period; top grades and materials for the state; and, the distribution of total fertilizer and the top 10 grades by county. All tonnage data in this publication are compiled from quarterly fertilizer reports submitted by companies registered or licensed to sell fertilizers in Kentucky.

This report and other tonnage reports are available on our internet site. Go to: http://www.rs.uky.edu/, click on "Fertilizer".

Fertilizer Registration for 2011 in Kentucky

All Kentucky fertilizer registrations and licenses expire on December 31, 2010 and must be renewed to legally sell fertilizer in the state for 2011. Renewal notices to all current Kentucky registrants/licensees have been mailed. The renewals list all products registered in the state for 2010, all licenses approved for 2010, and instructions for completing the task.

Each company was mailed a current registration/licenses status in June 2010,
so renewals will be an update from that report.

BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE.

As always, if you have questions
call: 859/257-2785, FAX: 859/257-9478, or email: June.Crawford@uky.edu.

THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES *FERTILIZER 101* INITIATIVE

New book and website tell the story of fertilizers with a focus on economic, environmental and social contributions of the industry and its products

The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) has announced the launch of a "Fertilizer 101" initiative, aimed at providing the people of the fertilizer industry, their allies in the agriculture community, and the general public with a central source of information on fertilizers. Key components of the initiative are a *Fertilizer 101* book and a corresponding fertilizer101.org website.

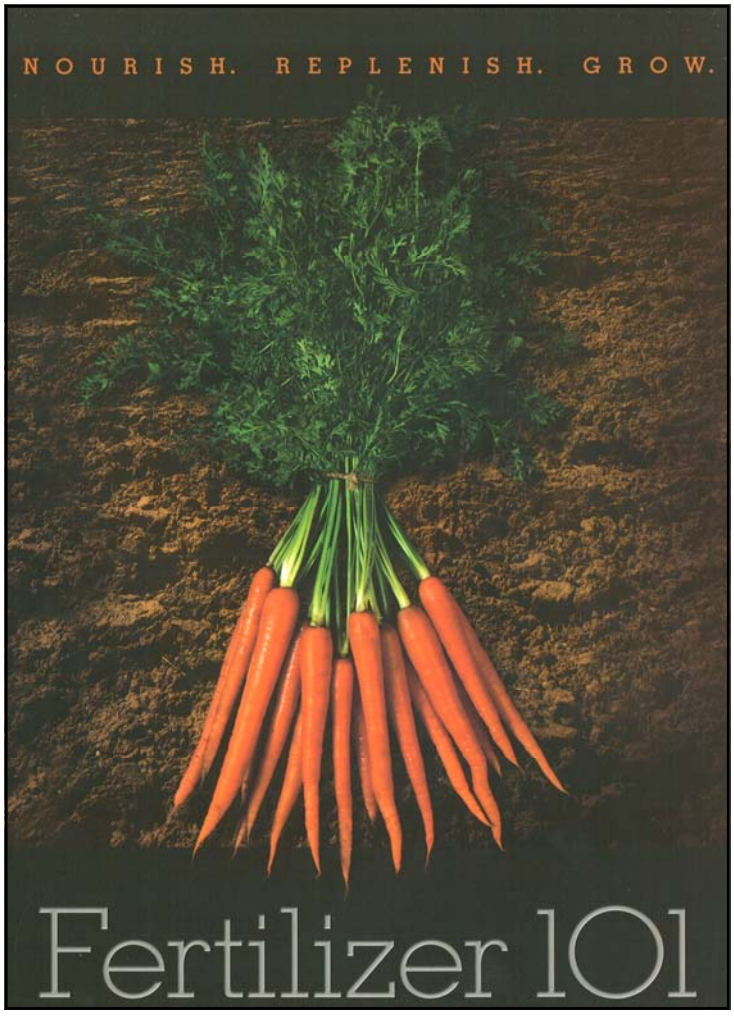
"World population will grow to more than 9 billion people by the year 2050 and fertilizer will be increasingly important as modern agriculture works to feed a growing world," said TFI President Ford B. West. "We cannot allow the idea that food comes only from the supermarket to take root. It's in this spirit that TFI developed Fertilizer 101. We hope that readers and visitors to the Web site will gain information that provides a better understanding of what fertilizer is and why it's so important to our future."

Fertilizer 101 replaces TFI's *Fertilizer Handbook*, a well established industry resource for fertilizer information. As was the case with the *Fertilizer Handbook*, the new book and website cover the important fertilizer fundamentals including information on essential nutrients, fertilizer production and definitions of commonly used fertilizer products. In addition, the new resources contain the latest information regarding nutrients in the environment and product safety and security, including content on fertilizers and human health as well as information on nutrient stewardship by farmers and home gardeners.

"As TFI works daily to educate Capitol Hill staff, representatives of regulatory agencies and the media, we identified the need for a centralized fertilizer resource for individuals who may not have a technical background," said West. "Through the tools produced in the Fertilizer 101 initiative, we hope to educate key decision makers and the general public about the steps being taken to ensure science and stewardship guide the industry's actions."

The *Fertilizer 101* book is available for purchase. For pricing and more information, visit: http://www.tfi.org/index.cfm.

Courtesy of The Fertilizer Institute



Renewal of Seed Registrations and Permits for 2011

The annual renewal process of registrations and permits is upon us. At the end of December applications will be mailed to seedsmen, seed dealers, and seed conditioners who were permitted and registered in 2010.

There are two registrations and two permits specified in the provisions of the Kentucky Seed Law. What each individual or business is required to obtain is based on the nature of their business. For many firms, multiple applications consisting of a combination of two or more permits or registrations are required.

Firms that sell seed at retail in container sizes of 40 pounds or more are required to register as **Seed Dealers**. There are a number of locations that do sell seed in smaller container sizes and are not required to register as seed dealers. These locations are still subject to inspection and are inspected on a regular basis.

Locations that condition uncertified seed for distribution in Kentucky are required to register as **Non-Certified Seed Conditioners**. Those who condition only certified seed are registered as a part of the certification process.

Anyone who labels agricultural seed or agricultural seed mixtures is required to obtain a **Permit to Label Agricultural Seed**. Those who obtain this permit are also required to file quarterly reports and pay fees based on the seed kind and container size of the product. Quarterly reporting forms are mailed to agricultural seed permit holders at the end of each quarter and are required to be filed within 45 days after the end of each quarter. Tonnage report forms are also available on our website (http://www.rs.uky.edu/regulatory/seed/regulatory/forms.php).

Anyone who labels vegetable seed, flower seed, or combination mulch, seed and fertilizer is required to obtain a **Permit to Label Vegetable Seed, Flower Seed, or Combination Mulch, Seed, and Fertilizer Products**. These products are not subject to quarterly reporting.

Fees for registrations and permits are $25 each. Locations that are required to obtain both a labeling permit and a registration or both registrations only pay one $25 fee for all. It is common for a location to be involved in conditioning seed, labeling seed and also selling seed at retail. All three applications are required, but only one $25 fee is paid. A $50 fee would only be required if both labeling permits are needed. The registration fees are waived if one or both permits are obtained.

Applications will be mailed to your location in December and are based on the applications that you currently have. A cover letter accompanying the application will be included. The cover letter will specify in bold type the fee due for your location based on registration and permit information from 2010. Please complete the applications and return with the application fee stated in your cover letter to our office by January 15, 2010. Forms are also available on our website (http://www.rs.uky.edu/regulatory/seed/regulatory/forms.php). If you have questions about this process, please contact our office at 859-257-7363.

C. Finneseth,
Seed Regulatory Program

KSIA Winter Meeting

The Kentucky Seed Improvement Association Winter Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 27-28, 2010 in Princeton. For more information about KSIA or the winter meeting, contact:

Kenny Hunter , KSIA Secretary/Manager
phone: (859) 351-5325 or email: khunter.ksia@gmail.com

Buying and Selling Seed in Kentucky: Varieties vs. Brands

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet."

Shakespeare
Romeo and Juliet

Juliet Capulet may have believed that names are artificial and meaningless, but she was never faced with purchasing seed for planting purposes. To ensure purchasers know the seed being bought, the Kentucky Seed Law requires that seed sold in the state has the name on the tag or label. This name is the variety statement.

A somewhat recent industry labeling trend is labeling products as a brand or with product number. Seed can be legally branded in Kentucky, but the variety name of the brand must also be declared on the seed label. The label also must clearly differentiate which statement is which by use of the words **Variety** and **Brand**.

There are, of course, exceptions and special considerations. Seed kinds that can be, but are not required to be labeled by variety are listed in Table 1. All certified seed, however, is required to be labeled by variety. All yellow soybean seed must be labeled by variety name, with no exception. For some seed lots, the statement "Variety Unknown" is used.

So, what is in a name?

Quite a lot, actually. As a variety or cultivar (a *cultivated variety*) is released to the public, the plant breeder who developed the variety names and describes it. This variety description defines the characteristics of the variety.

By definition of botanical nomenclature codes, a variety must be distinct, uniform and stable. In terms of a new release, it should also be superior.

Names or descriptions provide the consumer with valuable information about varieties available for purchase. A variety description defines characteristics which can include: plant height, days to maturity, yield characteristics, drought and disease tolerance, and other characteristics, which can be important considerations when selecting seed lots for planting purposes. Many countries maintain National Variety Lists and lists of varieties eligible for certification also exist.

Again, why is that name so important?

A number of sources, both public and private, publish crop performance information, especially grains, by variety. In Kentucky, the UK College of Agriculture conducts annual variety performance testing to provide farmers, seed producers, extension agents and crop consultants with current, unbiased information to help select seed varieties for planting purposes. This information is valuable when determining which varieties are best adapted to planting locations and for other crop requirements.

Unfortunately, sometimes brands are misrepresented or misstated as varieties. This is a problem because brand names are generally arbitrarily assigned by a manufacturer for marketing purposes. If seed is sold only by brand name, when growers are faced with options, there is no way to make comparisons. If only a brand name is provided, a grower could easily unintentionally buy the same variety.

Since 2006, our program has been collecting variety and brand information for seed lots offered for sale in Kentucky sampled by our inspection staff. Corn, soybean and wheat seed lots sold under brand names have been observed as well as other crops including alfalfa, red clover, cotton, rye, grain sorghum and grasses.

In reviewing tag information, different companies commonly market the same variety under different brand names. An analysis of variety and brand information indicated that 50 yellow soybean varieties have been marketed under two or more brand names between 2006 and 2010. For corn and wheat, 26 and 8 individual varieties, respectively, have been sold under multiple brand names.

As an example, the yellow soybean variety '15049' has been sold under seven different brand names (4970RB, 8509NRR, H-4878RR, V49N6RR, DG4970RR, DSR-8509NRR and Excel 8509NRR).

Another observation is different varieties marketed under the same brand name. For example, both yellow soybean varieties '491718 and '509255' have been sold under the brand 4875 and varieties '4423183' and 'R4452N' as the brand C444R. This labeling scheme is less common, but has been observed in seed lots offered for sale in Kentucky. The com-

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plete information (2006-2010) can be found on our website: http://www.rs.uky.edu/regulatory/seed/regulatory/general.php.

It is not unusual to see a brand designation printed on the seed label in larger letters than the variety designation. While this practice is not prohibited, it can be misleading. The legitimate variety designation must always be declared on the tag — clearly and legibly. Buyers should examine labels carefully to be certain of each seed lot's variety.

Variety Not Stated

Another labeling approach that is legal in some states (but not Kentucky) is to use a brand name in place of the variety name with "Variety Not Stated". Since this labeling approach does not provide the variety name, it does not provide growers with information to utilize the strategy of spreading risk by planting different varieties.

Variety Unknown

Seed lots labeled as "Variety Unknown" are exactly that—unknown. For these seed lots, the seed labeler declares that no variety information is known. In the fall, we commonly see wheat offered for sale as "Variety Unknown". This is acceptable, but the purchaser should know that the seedsman only guarantees seed lot purity and germination and no varietial characteristics. Suitability as a grain crop cannot be determined because variety information is not known.

The Kentucky Seed Law does not prohibit brand names or product numbers on seed tags, but the seedsman must also declare the variety. This provides the purchaser the opportunity to compare products with full knowledge of the variety. Use of incorrect variety designations or failure to provide a variety designation will result in a stop sale being issued on the seed lot.

C. Finneseth
Seed Regulatory Program

Table 1. Seed kinds that can be sold in Kentucky without a variety declaration (12 KAR 1:160).

bermudagrass
Canada bluegrass
rough bluegrass
field bromegrass
buckwheat
canarygrass
alsike clover
Chewings fescue
meadow fescue
Korean lespedeza
striate lespedeza
sand lovegrass
weeping lovegrass
browntop millet
foxtail millet
Japanese millet
proso millet
rape*
redtop
white sweetclover
yellow sweetclover
common vetch
hairy vetch

*Canola must be sold as a certified class of seed in Kentucky.

Milk Hauler School Dates Announced for 2011 and Training Videos Now Available On-line

Milk Hauler school dates are scheduled on a quarterly basis and will be held at the Hardin County Cooperative Extension Service Office. The 2011 dates are:

Tuesday, February 8th
Tuesday, May 10th
Tuesday, August 9th
Tuesday, October 25th

Additionally, training videos for milk hauling, milk receiving and proper milk sample care are now available for viewing on-line in both English and Spanish! For more information on the training programs and to view the videos go to www.rs.uky.edu and follow the links to the milk programs training program information section.

Chris Thompson
Milk Program

Regulatory Services Milk Laboratory Overview

The milk lab at Regulatory Services offers a wide variety of testing services for Kentucky's dairy industry. Much of our work focuses on the testing of producer bulk tank samples, however, on occasion we do venture into testing a variety of finished dairy products and ingredients. The vast majority of the samples tested in our lab are related to our milk sampler-weigher inspection program. Other testing activities include performing health department related "regulatory" testing to assist dairy stakeholders in complying with a variety of requirements related to the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). The milk lab has undergone significant improvements during the past year to better prepare us for future dairy testing needs. In this issue, we'll take a quick overview of the lab and the services it provides.

Our people

Bob Kiser manages the milk lab operations and Kristin Brock is our senior laboratory technician. Bob and Kristin are both certified for a variety of testing procedures specified in PMO related documents. Their certified status enables the lab to provide the previously mentioned "regulatory" testing for dairy industry stakeholders. Regulatory Services takes a team approach to many of our activities, so while Bob and Kristin are the most familiar faces in the milk lab, you may also encounter Debie Sipe (certified for select testing) or other staff members in the lab during heavy workloads. Each of our lab staff are readily accessible to dairy clientele and are a good source for milk testing information.

Bob Hickerson and Mark Barrow are our inspectors who regularly submit samples to the lab for official testing. Bob and Mark regularly visit locations were milk deliveries occur. They routinely collect milk samples from licensed sampler-weighers at these locations. After these samples are analyzed, the results are evaluated and used as a significant component in our sampler-weigher inspection program. After these results are compiled, a wide range of reports are generated for hauling companies, processors, producers and sampler-weighers. Cathy Buckingham ensures this information is distributed to those who need it in a timely manner.

The "check sample" program

Each month, the milk lab distributes unknown "check samples" to licensed laboratories and other cooperators. These labs analyze the unknown samples for milk components (typically with an electronic instrument) and provide their results to Regulatory Services. Simultaneously, our lab staff perform detailed chemistry analysis of the unknown samples to determine their true composition. The chemistry results are compared to the test results submitted by the licensed labs to evaluate their performance. The chemistries used to evaluate electronic milk testing instruments include: ether extract for fat, Kjeldahl for true protein and the direct forced air oven method for total solids.

Routine milk testing

Most samples submitted to the lab are analyzed on our recently installed CombiFoss™ FT+ instrument. This instrument is basically two electronic milk sample analyzers assembled into one unit. The MilkoScan™ portion of the unit is an infrared analyzer and provides us with results for milk components (i.e. fat, protein, lactose, total solids and solids -non-fat). This portion of the unit is also useful in screening milk samples for freezing point depression (FPD or "added water"). The Fossomatic FC™ is the somatic cell counter portion of the unit. Combined, these units form the CombiFoss™ FT+ instrument. This versatile instrument provides us the ability to test a high volume of samples in a very short amount of time. The CombiFoss™ FT+ was installed just over a year ago and will provide the milk lab with the ability to meet the dairy industry's testing demands of the future. Shortly after the instrument was installed, our lab and staff were certified for its use in official somatic cell count testing.

The lab also periodically utilizes the Milkoscan™ FT120 for component testing. Today this instrument is primarily used as a back-up for the CombiFoss™ FT+; however, it is also valuable for testing finished dairy products and ingredients that have more viscous properties.

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Other milk testing capabilities

Babcock and Gerber test methods for fat. These are very basic and relatively inexpensive chemistry test procedures for determining milk fat. While these chemistry test methods for fat are not as accurate as the ether extract method, they are optional methods for special dairy testing needs.

Cryoscope method for added water. The cryoscope is used to detect the adulteration of milk with water. It provides an officially recognized value for the freezing point depression of a given milk sample. Typically, if a milk sample is screened "suspect for added water" with an infrared instrument, the sample will be tested with a cryoscope to confirm the FPD test result.

Antibiotic testing. The milk lab and staff are certified for detection of antibiotics in milk with the Charm SL® method. This method is approved for both cow and goat milk.

Standard Plate Count (SPC) Bacteria. The milk lab and staff are certified for SPC with Petrifilm®. This is an all-in-one plating system method that provides for the SPC of aerobic bacteria in milk. While this SPC method provides the lab a considerable savings in both labor and materials, it is still a fairly time consuming test. Milk samples are incubated for 48 hours on the Pertifilm® before a SPC result can be provided. Due to the duration of this test's requirements, in general we perform only a limited number of SPCs for unique situations.

Summary

The milk laboratory performs a broad range of testing to support the milk program's function of monitoring various aspects of the dairy industry supply chain. These testing capabilities are also valuable to the dairy industry for a wide range of other needs. The milk lab regularly performs testing for dairy producers, processors, allied representatives and university researchers. For more detailed information about our testing services and applicable fees, please visit our website at: www.rs.uky.edu or feel free to contact us at 859-257-2785.

Chris Thompson
Milk Program

Bob Kiser performing milk sample analysis with the Combi-Foss™ FT+ instrument.

Fertilizer Nutrients: Phosphate and Sulfate

Phosphate and sulfate are two nutrients that plants need for growth. These nutrients are applied to crops and other plants to prevent a deficiency during growth and some products provide slow release of the nutrients. Regulatory Services monitors the quality of products that contain these components. In the 19th century, the German scientist, Justus von Liebig, formulated the "Law of the Minimum," which states that if one of the essential plant nutrients is deficient, plant growth will be poor even when all other essential nutrients are abundant. Liebig contributed to several aspects of plant growth including the explanation that plants get carbon from the atmosphere and not from the soil (D. Terry, Regulatory Services News, Fall 2005). Providing the needed nutrients for growth is important to obtain optimum growth. The phosphate industry mines and chemically manufactures high concentrate phosphate fertilizer to provide the needed level of nutrient for crops. This industry has cooperated over the years in several ways including an annual phosphate conference.

This conference had its beginnings in 1985 at a Florida Institute of Phosphate Research (FIPR) technical advisory committee meeting with industry experts and scientists present. Today FIPR is the Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute and it continues to work with industry and academia. The conference was suggested as a way of sharing information about the business, technology and environmental impact of phosphate mining. It continues to focus on phosphate mining and chemical processing of phosphate products. The phosphate industry produces fertilizer for agriculture, greenhouse, and homeowner use. The Conference has expanded to meet with other associations including the Association of Fertilizer and Phosphate Chemists (AFPC).

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This year, The 25th Annual Regional Phosphate Conference met on October 13-14 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida. "Phosphate: Florida's Silver Lining" was the theme of the conference. Sessions included: The General Session, Geology and Mine Planning, Analytical/ Regulatory, Mining and Mineral Processing, Reclamation, Chemical Processing, and Environmental. The General Session included presentations covering environmental, the economic impact of recent regulations, an update on phosphogypsum, jobs, mine safety and permitting including regulations. All these aspects impact the phosphate industry that provides fertilizer for much of the United States. Factors that restrict land use, environmental issues, process refuse, site reclamation, and product manufacturing can all contribute to the cost of fertilizer. The other sessions addressed specific technical issues with these and other topics.

The historical presentations provided a review of the industry in the 1800s and early 1900s. The Bone Valley is a region of central Florida, encompassing portions of present-day Hardee, Hillsborough, Manatee and Polk counties. Phosphate is mined for use in the production of agricultural fertilizer and Florida currently contains the largest known deposits of phosphate in the US. The phosphate comes from sediment that was deposited in layers on the sea floor from primeval seas millions of years ago. The phosphate rich sediments are believed to have formed from precipitation of phosphate from seawater along with the skeletons and waste products of creatures living in the seas. Fossils from the sedimentary deposits of the Bone Valley Formation are often uncovered in the process of phosphate mining.

The Technical Session Chair for the Conference extended an invitation to Dr. Melton Bryant of Regulatory Services to speak at the conference this year. The title of the presentation was "Aspects of Slow Release Fertilizer: Technology, Analysis, and Regulation". Melton is the current Chairperson of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) Slow Release Fertilizer Committee that started as a Task Force in 1994. He discussed the use of slow release fertilizers and reviewed some of the different product

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technologies used to provide improved nutrient delivery and/or extended time of release. The lab analysis of this type of fertilizer and the regulatory efforts by AAPFCO and Kentucky were summarized. Some products have all nutrients, including the phosphate, formulated in the slow release form. This type product may be used more in the future to provide increase efficiency of nutrient use. Participants had several questions and comments regarding the manufacture, labeling, registration, and evaluation of slow release products. Concern was expressed about the uniformity of the product to ensure the nutrient release will cover the time period specified for the product. Slow release fertilizer can provide nutrients to plants during the complete growing season and may prevent surge growth or burning. Greenhouse and nursery applications benefit from this type of product by providing nutrients in a controlled release manner. Agriculture utilization of slow release products may provide enhanced efficiency of nutrient use and thereby reduce amount applied and reduce the transport of nutrients into the environment.

In addition to speaking at the Phosphate Conference, Dr. Bryant was invited to speak at the quarterly AFPC meeting in Plant City, FL on fertilizer sulfur analysis. The presentation title was, "Sulfur: Analytical Methods and Regulatory Issues". Plants use sulfur in the processes of producing proteins, amino acids, enzymes and vitamins. Although sulfur (S) exists in many different chemical forms in nature, plants can only absorb S through their root systems when it is in the sulfate, SO_4^{2-}, form. Fertilizer can contain different forms of sulfur however, it must be converted to sulfate unless a sulfate form is added directly, e.g. ammonium sulfate. For example, elemental sulfur, S^0, and organic forms of S require oxidation to sulfate in the soil. Analysis of sulfate sulfur gives a measure of what is available shortly after application. A total sulfur method, such as combustion analysis, provides a measure of how much sulfur will be provided over a longer period of time. Both values need to be measured for products that contain sulfate and other forms of sulfur. This provides data for regulatory purposes such as labeling and guarantees.

Regulatory Services adds methods and instrument technology to support the fertilizer regulatory program. Lab personnel also support AAPFCO efforts to develop model regulations and analytical methodology. New products and/or new product technologies require the lab to diversify and update analytical capabilities to ascertain the quality of products for the consumer. Methods for the analysis of slow release fertilizer, phosphate, and sulfur are currently being expanded and improved by the laboratory.

Melton Bryant
Feed and Fertilizer Lab

Winter Break Announcement

The Division of Regulatory Services will close for winter break on Friday, December 24, 2010 and will reopen Monday, January 3, 2011.

The Seed Testing Laboratory will be operating during the break. To arrange sample drop-off or to contact Seed Lab personnel, call (859) 257-2785, ext. 256. The seed program can also be reached by email at Cindy.Finneseth@uky.edu.

Employee News

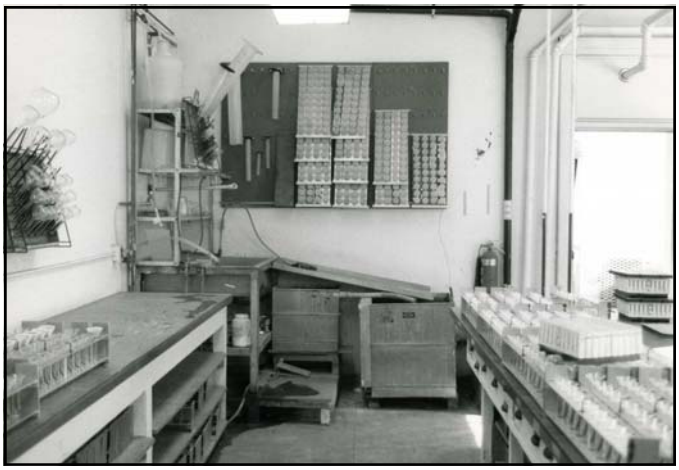
Danny, performing soil analyses in the laboratory

Danny Reid
Lexington Soil Test Lab Supervisor

Danny Reid is retiring at the end of the year. Danny, a Bourbon County (KY) native, has been with the College of Agriculture at UK for 39 years. He recalls his first introduction to soil testing as preparing soil samples with his Dad and delivering them to the Bourbon County Extension Office.

In 1970, Danny received a B.S. in Agriculture from Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green, KY). He started his career with the College in 1971 as a field technician in the Agronomy department working for Doyle Peaslee on Zn deficiency in corn. From 1973 to 1977, he worked as a laboratory technician in the soil testing laboratory in the Division of Regulatory Services in Lexington. In 1977, he became supervisor of the laboratory and has been in that position since. He has served the lab for many years with great dedication to timely and accurate analysis of samples.

Danny recalls remarkable changes in the soil test lab through his career. Prior to 1990, the laboratory was in Scovell Hall occupying space on three different floors. The move to the Poundstone Building greatly improved efficiency with laboratory space centralized in one location. With computer technology, the lab has been able to manage and report results in a shorter time period. Prior to 1985, soil test results were written by hand on paper forms submitted with each sample and mailed back to the county offices. Also, samples received were organized every day first alphabetically by county and then by the county's sample identification number. It took many technicians, students, and clerical staff to help with this work.



Regulatory Services lab space in Scovell Hall

In earlier days, the soil test laboratory in Lexington only tested soil for routine analysis of pH and plant nutrients. Services have expanded to test other parameters in soil and to analysis of animal waste, nutrient solutions, and greenhouse media. In 1983, the laboratory also began supporting many research projects in the College of Agriculture and currently analyzes about 10,000 research samples per year. Since Danny started in the soil test laboratory in 1973, he has experienced the analysis of approximately 1.2 million samples.

Danny is looking forward to retirement. After 37 years in the soil test laboratory where the extremely busy time of year is in March right before spring planting, he is curious what March will feel like without overseeing analysis of 400 samples per day. Danny's hobbies include hunting, fishing, golfing, and tinkering with antique tractors. He is looking forward to spending more time on these activities.

F. Sikora
Soil Testing Program

Chris Thompson
Seed Regulatory Program Coordinator

Chris Thompson has accepted the position of Seed Regulatory Program coordinator at the Division of Regulatory Services. He will assume his new role as Seed Regulatory Program Coordinator on December 1, 2010.

Chris has over 20 years of experience with Regulatory Services. From 1990 to 1997, he served as an inspector in the Louisville-Northern Kentucky territory (1990-93) and later in the Bowling Green-South Central Kentucky territory (1994-97). Chris has served as the Division's Milk Program Coordinator since 1997. During his tenure with the Milk Program, Chris led efforts with changes associated with the program's law and regulations which facilitated several program improvements. He has also served in a number of leadership capacities associated with state and national industry and regulatory associations. Most recently he has collaborated with UK College of Ag. researchers in Biosystems and Ag Engineering on a national milk transportation project. During a transition period, Chris will continue to serve in a limited number of leadership roles associated with the Milk Program.

Chris is a native of Princeton, Kentucky where he grew up on a small farm. He earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agriculture from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green with an emphasis in agronomy. Chris is very familiar with Kentucky's agricultural landscape and is excited about taking on his new role as the Seed Regulatory Program Coordinator.

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Bob Kiser to serve as
Interim Milk Program Coordinator

Bob Kiser will be serving as our Interim Milk Program Coordinator effective December 1, 2010. Bob has assumed this role due to Chris Thompson's move to the Seed Regulatory Program. Bob has been with the division since 1974 and has served as the milk laboratory manager for over 10 years. As Interim Milk Program Coordinator, Bob will be taking care of the day-to-day operations of the milk program. Bob Hickerson and Mark Barrow will continue to conduct routine field activities and will be working with Bob Kiser to ensure the Division is well-represented at various dairy industry functions. We appreciate Bob Kiser accepting this responsibility. Feel free to contact Bob at rkiser@uky.edu or 859-257-2785.

Employee News

Inspector Jesse Whitehouse Retires

Jesse Whitehouse

On September 30th, our Specialty Markets Inspector, Jesse Whitehouse retired after working for the Division of Regulatory Services for over seven years. During that time, Jesse traveled the eastern part of Kentucky sampling seed, feed, and fertilizer for the retail specialty markets. His focus has been in urban markets where consumer products are sold in smaller packages.

A major part of his responsibilities for the seed and fertilizer in this market has been in the home and garden centers at retail stores. This market segment has continued to grow the last 10 years and Jesse was responsible for making sure all of the seed products sold in these locations had seed tags that had current expiration dates. He also sampled the specialty fertilizer products that were sold in smaller packages at these locations. In addition to sampling the fertilizer products Jesse was responsible for making sure that both the companies selling these products and the products themselves were registered.

The feed part of Jesse's duties was where the specialty market is much different than our traditional agriculture inspectors. The specialty market includes all pet foods including dogs, cats, birds, other small animals, all pet treats, and also specialty products for horses. This industry has seen rapid growth over the last 10 years and continues to expand as there are more companies and more products available for consumers to choose. In addition to retail stores mentioned above, Jesse also went to pet food centers, grocery stores, and convenient stores. There are over 10,000 registered pet food products sold in Kentucky and part of Jesse's duties was to find new products and companies as they entered the marketplace and get products registered. This being Kentucky with the title of "Horse Capital of the World", Jesse spent almost three weeks each May sampling and reviewing over 1500 specialty horse feeds, minerals, supplements, and treats.

Jesse (left) receiving a retirement plaque from Division Director Dr. Bill Thom.

The Division of Regulatory Services recognized Jesse's contributions at a departmental party on September 30, where he was thanked for his years of service at the University of Kentucky. We wish him well as he enjoys his retirement.

We hope to have a new inspector hired sometime in late winter.

J. True
Inspection Program

Bob Hickerson Recognized for Contributions to DPC Publication

Regulatory Services' Milk Inspector, Bob Hickerson, was recognized in November at the 41st Annual Convention of the Dairy Practices Council (DPC) in Columbus, OH. DPC President, Dr. Mike Schutz (left) of Purdue, presents Bob Hickerson (right) with a certificate to recognize his contribution as a lead co-author on the DPC Guideline 34 "Guidelines for Butterfat Determinations of Various Dairy Products."

Announcements

Upcoming Events

KY Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show—Jan. 3-4
Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY
John Strang, 859-257-5685

KY Landscape Industries Winter Conf./Horticultural Expo.—Jan. 27-29
Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, KY
http://www.knla.org/

KY Small Ruminant Grazing Conference—Jan. 15
Hardin County Extension Office, Elizabethtown, KY
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/

Kentucky Commodity Conference—Jan. 21
University Plaza Hotel, Bowling Green, KY
http://www.kycorn.org/news_events/kcc.htm

Kentucky Seed Improvement Annual Meeting—Jan. 28-29
Princeton, KY
khunter.ksia@gmail.com

National Farm Machinery Show—Feb. 16-19
Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY
http://www.farmmachineryshow.org/

Turf and Landscape Short Course—Feb. 21-25
Louisville, KY
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/ukturf/

Kentucky Alfalfa Conference—Feb. 24
Fayette Co. Extension Office, Lexington, KY
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/

Electronic Delivery Regulatory Services News

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To receive the quarterly newsletter in electronic format, please visit the Division's website at www.rs.uky.edu, navigate to the Newsletter page and submit your contact information.

Newsletter editions dating to 2001 are available online.

Kentucky Seed Issues

The Seed Regulatory and Testing Programs publish a monthly newsletter of interest to individuals and firms using, buying or selling seed in Kentucky and the surrounding region.

Anyone is welcome to subscribe. To add yourself, send an email to ListServ@lsv.uky.edu with no subject. In the body of the message include the following line of text:

Subscribe KY-SEED-ISSUES

If you have a signature line, please remove this before sending the email.

Regulatory Services News is published quarterly for the feed, fertilizer, milk and seed regulatory programs and the seed and soil service testing programs of the Division of Regulatory Services. It is provided free to persons interested in these programs. For subscriptions or address changes, contact Cindy Finneseth, Editor, either by email at Cindy.Finneseth@uky.edu or by telephone at (859) 257-2785. You can also request electronic delivery and access past issues of Regulatory Services News on the Internet at http://www.rs.uky.edu.

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