



## **CFPF Backgrounder**

Agricultural producers give a good rating to the regulatory system that ensures commercial fertilizers and supplements used in food production are safe and effective.

Three quarters of farmers canvassed in a national survey conducted last spring by Ipsos Reid for the Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum (CFPF) have confidence in the system that regulates fertilizers and supplements. The approval rating was highest in Ontario at 86% while on the Prairies it ranged from 80% in Manitoba to 70% in Alberta and 69% in Saskatchewan. A large number of farmers, however, are not aware that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for developing and implementing standards for the quality and safety of fertilizers and supplements sold in Canada.

The survey of 400 farmers on a wide variety of soil treatment issues found that the vast majority are satisfied with the physical quality of the available fertilizers and supplements and 90% approve of the blended products provided by manufacturers. About 20%, however, have complained about or returned a product for being lumpy or dusty.

The survey also noted that about 20% of farmers mainly in the west are aware of fertilizers or supplements that are available in other countries but that have not been approved for use in Canada. Farmers said they would like to have more choice, for example, in nitrogen and phosphate products.

Farmers said they pay close attention to the cost of fertilizers and supplements when choosing their products and also base their purchases on perceived benefit and availability. The survey also found that farmers are looking to incorporate more manure and compost, when it is available, on their land to reduce their nutrient requirements. About half the respondents cited price as the main reason for using fewer products.

Among other findings in the survey, only 2% of those polled said they had not used any fertilizers or supplements in last three years. It also found that farmers make annual use of the traditional products containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium but are less familiar with newer products such as wetting agents and biosolids.

A full copy of the Ipsos Reid survey is available on the CFPF website ([www.cfpf-fcpf.ca](http://www.cfpf-fcpf.ca)).

The CFPF was launched in the fall of 2006 to provide a forum for stakeholder input into the regulatory process for fertilizers and supplements. The CFPF brings together producer groups, industry representatives, non-governmental organizations and regulatory officials from across the country to provide recommendations to improve the regulatory system.

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