



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Canadian farmers approve of regulatory system for products**

**OTTAWA, Ontario, October 3, 2007** –Agricultural producers are confident in the regulatory system that ensures commercial fertilizers and supplements used in food production are safe and effective.

Three quarters of agricultural producers canvassed in a national survey conducted last spring by Ipsos Reid for the Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum (CFPF) said that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was doing a good job in its regulation of fertilizer and supplement products. 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.

“The current regulatory system provides a strong foundation for the fertilizer and supplement industries founded on a science-based approach for all products,” said Clyde Graham, Executive Director of the CFPF. “While the current system works, there is still room for improvement to ensure that farmers have access to a variety of high-quality fertilizers and supplements in a timely fashion.”

The survey of 400 agricultural producers 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. Close to 20%, however, have complained about or returned a product for being lumpy or dusty.

The survey also noted that about 20% of agricultural producers mainly in the west are aware of fertilizer products that are available in other countries but that have not been approved for use in Canada. Producers 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 and base their purchases on perceived benefit and availability of various products. 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 of the survey, only 2% of those polled said they had not used any fertilizers or supplements in last three years. It also found that producers 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.

“The Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum conducted this survey to get a better idea of farmers’ usage, familiarity and attitudes towards fertilizers and supplements,” explained Craig Rickard, Chair of the CFPF. “Farmer input is critical to making sure that regulatory decisions governing fertilizers and supplements reflect the needs of Canadian farmers.”

-30-

For more information, see backgrounder. To view the full survey, refer to the CFPF web page at: [www.cfpf-fcpf.ca](http://www.cfpf-fcpf.ca).

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