

## DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Division of Measurement Standards  
8500 Fruitridge Road  
Sacramento, CA 95826-4808

DMS NOTICE  
QC – 03 – 4

October 25, 2003

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT: Statewide Farm, Garden, and Pet Supplies Survey**

The statewide survey of farm, garden, and pet supplies was completed in June 2003. Participating counties randomly selected and tested 890 items throughout the State.

The surveyed items had an average overfill of 2.76%. Of the 890 items tested, 146 were found to be underfilled. All of the 21 subcategories surveyed had an average overfill. Underfilled products found during the survey were followed up with official lot inspections and underfilled lots were removed from sale.

The following attachments outline the survey procedures and results for individual subcategories as well as the category as a whole.

If you have any questions regarding this or other surveys, please contact Ken Lake, Program Supervisor, at (916) 229-3047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cleary".

Mike Cleary  
Director  
(916) 229-3000

Attachments

## **Statewide Garden, Farm, and Pet Supply Survey**

County Weights and Measures Officials collected information for this survey during April and May 2003.

### **SAMPLE**

Thirty retail items were assigned in each of the following subcategories:

#### ***COMMODITY SUBCATEGORIES***

- 11.01 - Charcoal
- 11.02 - Hickory & Other Wood Flavoring Chips
- 11.03 - Fire Starters & Matches
- 11.04 - Firewood, Kindling & Manufactured Logs
- 11.05 - Household Insecticides & Repellents
- 11.06 - Economic Poisons (Not Elsewhere Classified)
- 11.07 - Phosphatic & Superphosphate Fertilizers
- 11.08 - Organic Fertilizers & Mixed Fertilizers
- 11.09 - Peat Moss, Mulch, Bark, & Soil
- 11.10 - Poultry Feeds
- 11.11 - Livestock Feeds; inc. Salt Licks
- 11.12 - Dog & Cat Foods
- 11.13 - Other Prepared Animal Feeds
- 11.14 - Pet & Livestock Supplies (Not Elsewhere Classified)
- 11.15 - Vegetable & Agricultural Seeds
- 11.16 - Flower & Grass Seeds, Bulbs, Plants
- 11.17 - Rock, Sand, & Gravel
- 11.18 - Garden Tools & Related Products
- 11.19 - Herbicides
- 11.40 - Garden, Farm, & Pet Supplies (Not Elsewhere Classified)

At least 150 retail items were assigned for the following category:

- 11.50 Garden, Farm, and Pet Supplies, Audits. (Point of Pack)  
Packages from any of the above subcategories that are inspected at the location where they are weighed or measured and labeled.

The samples from individual packers consisted of five randomly selected items of any type or types in the 11.00 category.

To insure all regions of the State were evaluated, counties were divided into four regional groups of approximately equivalent populations. Each group of counties selected and tested one quarter of the total sample.

## **SELECTION**

Establishments visited for purchases were selected randomly by participating counties. No more than three items from a single subcategory and not more than 15 items overall were selected from a single retail establishment. All retail stores selling garden, farm and pet supplies were considered for selection.

Packagers (sub-category 11.50) were defined as any establishment packaging and labeling products for retail sale. Packager locations were also chosen using random numbers.

## **INSPECTION PROCEDURE**

After purchase, packages were either checked on-site or taken to the local county quantity control laboratory for testing. Each package was opened to determine actual net content. Errors were recorded by comparing actual contents to the labeled net content.

Category	DESCRIPTION	Items tested	Items Correct	Percent Compliance	Items Underfilled	Average % Error	Std Deviation
11.01	- Charcoal	35	33	94.29	2	4.10	3.95
11.02	- Hickory & Other Wood Flavoring Chips	34	32	94.12	2	6.13	4.39
11.03	- Fire Starters & Matches	33	30	90.91	3	2.46	4.80
11.04	- Firewood, Kindling & Manufactured Logs	33	29	87.88	4	3.77	4.48
11.05	- Household Insecticides & Repellents	33	23	69.70	10	3.00	4.31
11.06	- Economic Poisons (Not Elsewhere Classified)	34	32	94.12	2	3.79	5.56
11.07	- Phosphatic & Superphosphate Fertilizers	36	32	88.89	4	3.98	5.30
11.08	- Organic Fertilizers & Mixed Fertilizers	37	33	89.19	4	3.29	5.14
11.09	- Peat Moss, Mulch, Bark, & Soil	34	22	64.71	12	2.52	6.72
11.10	- Poultry Feeds	41	32	78.05	9	1.19	2.45
11.11	- Livestock Feeds; inc. Salt Licks	33	27	81.82	6	1.90	3.44
11.12	- Dog & Cat Foods	37	31	83.78	6	1.21	1.91
11.13	- Other Prepared Animal Feeds	36	32	88.89	4	3.37	4.50
11.14	- Pet & Livestock Supplies (Not Elsewhere Classified)	37	28	75.68	9	2.02	5.19
11.15	- Vegetable & Agricultural Seeds	36	30	83.33	6	4.90	6.69
11.16	- Flower & Grass Seeds, Bulbs, Plants	37	35	94.59	2	2.89	4.90
11.17	- Rock, Sand, & Gravel	37	32	86.49	5	5.07	5.58
11.18	- Garden Tools & Related Products	33	28	84.85	5	0.19	2.71
11.19	- Herbicides	37	31	83.78	6	1.26	2.86
11.40	- Garden, Farm, & Pet Supplies (Not Elsewhere Classified)	36	30	83.33	6	2.78	6.37
11.50	- Packaging Locations	181	142	78.45	39	2.05	4.17
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>890</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>83.60</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>4.64</b>