

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Experiment Station

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THE MISSOURI FERTILIZER LAW

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The Missouri Fertilizer Law, approved March 14, 1903, is reprinted in this circular for the information of all persons interested. It requires every manufacturer or dealer to register with the Missouri Experiment Station all brands of fertilizers offered for sale in Missouri, together with a guaranteed chemical composition of the same. It provides further that the manufacturer shall affix to every package of fertilizer a printed tag signed by the Director of the Experiment Station, certifying to the fact of registration with the Missouri Experiment Station.

This tag of the Experiment Station is not a guarantee of the chemical composition of the fertilizer but merely certifies that the fertilizer has been registered with the Director of the Experiment Station.

The law requires that the Experiment Station shall collect from the open market samples of all brands of fertilizers sold in the state, make a chemical analysis of each brand and publish annually a detailed report.

The result of the work of the Experiment Station has been to drive out of the state dishonest fertilizer dealers and to encourage the sale of reliable fertilizers. The annual report issued by the Station has become a safe guide to farmers and dealers who purchase fertilizers in Missouri.

TEXT OF THE LAW.

Section 1. Any commercial fertilizer or material to be used as a fertilizer the selling price of which exceeds five dollars per ton, shall have stamped or affixed to each package of such fertilizer in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof, by the manufacturer, importer, corporation, company or person who sells or causes the same to be sold, offered or exposed for sale, a plainly printed statement which shall certify as follows:

(1) The name, brand or trade mark under which the fertilizer is sold.

(2) The name or address of the manufacturer of the fertilizer.

(3) The guaranteed chemical composition of the fertilizer expressed in the following terms: (a) Per centum of nitrogen; (b) per centum of available phosphoric acid, and in the case of an undissolved animal bone, the per centum of insoluble phosphoric acid; (c) per centum of potash soluble in distilled water. In case the composition is expressed in equivalent to ammonia, etc., in addition to the above, it shall be clearly and unequivocally shown that such terms are used merely as equivalents and not used to represent additional plant food.

Sec. 2. Before any commercial fertilizer or material to be used as a fertilizer, the selling price of which exceeds five dollars per ton, is sold, offered or exposed for sale in this state, the manufacturer, importer, corporation, company or person who sells or causes the same to be sold, offered or exposed for sale, shall file annually for registry with the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station at Columbia, a statement which shall certify as follows: (1) The name, brand, or trade mark under which the fertilizer is sold; (2) the name and address of the manufacturer of the fertilizer; (3) the guaranteed chemical composition of the fertilizer, expressed in the following terms; (a) per centum of nitrogen; (b) per centum of available phosphoric acid, and in the case of an undissolved bone, the per centum of insoluble phosphoric acid; (c) per centum of potash soluble in distilled water.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the director of said experiment station to register or cause to be registered the statements of every brand of fertilizer offered for registry as aforesaid, and to furnish to every manufacturer, importer or person complying with the provisions of this act, a certificate setting forth the fact of registry, and shall furnish to the manufacturer, importer or person complying with the provisions of this act, the labels or tags required in section 4 of this act, showing that the brand of fertilizer has been duly registered at the experiment station for that year.

Sec. 4. That every person, corporation or company who shall sell, offer or expose for sale in this state any commercial fertilizer, the selling price of which exceeds five dollars per ton, shall stamp or affix to each package of such fertilizer in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof a plainly printed statement which shall recite and certify in effect and from the matters and things required to be set forth in the registered statement described in section 2 of this act. If any such fertilizer is sold, offered, or exposed for sale in bulk, such printed statement shall accompany every lot and parcel sold, offered or exposed for sale. Every person, corporation or company selling or exposing for sale such fertilizer shall in addition to said printed statement attach to every package or quantity of such fertilizer sold or exposed for sale, in a conspicuous place on the outside of said package, a label or tag furnished by said experiment station showing that such brand of commercial fertilizer has been registered at said experiment station for that year.

Sec. 5. Every manufacturer, importer or person shall pay to said experiment station for the labels or tags required by them under section 4 of this act, the sum of one and one-half cents each for tags to be attached to packages weighing one hundred pounds or less, and three cents each for the tags or labels to be attached to bags or packages weighing more than one hundred pounds. The moneys so paid shall be used for defraying the expenses of said experiment station in registering and keeping a registry of the statements required under the second section of this act, for collecting samples in the open market, for making or causing to be made the analysis of samples, for supplying the labels or tags, for practical and scientific experiments in the value and proper use of commercial fertilizers, and for publishing the results of same and for such other work, investigations and publications as may be of practical use to the farmers of the state.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the experiment station to collect or cause to be collected from the open market each year one or more samples of each and every brand of fertilizer sold in this state during that year, and make or cause to be made a chemical analysis of the same; to publish each year a full and detailed report giving the names and addresses of all the manufacturers of fertilizers selling or offering for sale commercial fertilizers in this state, a list of the brands thereof; the guaranteed composition of the same and the composition as found by the chemical analysis herein required; also an itemized statement of the receipts and expenditures under this act.

Sec. 7. The director of the experiment station is hereby authorized in person or by deputy to take samples of not more than one pound each for analysis, from any lot or package of any commercial fertilizer which may be in the possession of any manufacturer or dealer in this state upon tender of the value of the same; and to obtain said samples said director and his deputies are hereby authorized to enter upon the premises of said manufacturer or dealer or his agents or where said fertilizer is stored. And said director is hereby authorized to prescribe and enforce such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to carry fully into effect the true intent and meaning of this act.

Sec. 8. No person shall sell, offer or expose for sale in this state any untreated, partially decomposed leather, horn, hair, hoof or other inert nitrogenous matter as a fertilizer or as an ingredient of any fertilizer, unless a plainly printed and explicit statement of such fact shall be conspicuously affixed to every package of such fertilizer, and such printed statement shall accompany every parcel, package or lot of the same.

Sec. 9. Every person violating or evading any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction shall be punished with a fine of one hundred dollars for the first offense, and two hundred dollars for each subsequent violation or evasion of this act; which fines shall accrue to the benefit of and be paid into the general revenue fund of the county or municipality where such conviction is made.

Sec. 10. There being no adequate law in this state to prevent fraud in the manufacture and sale of commercial fertilizers, creates an emergency within the meaning of the constitution; therefore, this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.