
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2015
TO: USCC Market Development Committee and USCC Executive Committee
FROM: Ron Alexander (RAA), USCC Market Development Committee Member & Industry Liaison to AAPFCO
RE: Update from the 2015 AAPFCO Annual Meeting

The 2015 Annual AAPFCO meeting was held in Denver, Colorado from August 5th to 8th. Once again, there was very good attendance at the meeting, with Control Officials attending from 35 different states.

Terms & Definitions Committee

Fertilizer and soil amendment related definitions were the primary items discussed at the recent committee meeting. Only two definitions were discussed that have relevance to the compost manufacturing and organics recycling industry. The “biochar” term was approved and the “biosolids (aquaculture)” was not. The USCC representative illustrated that the biosolids term should not be approved, as it was being used improperly, based on the definition outlined by the USEPA and Merriam Webster dictionary.

We plan on introducing updated terms for 'compost' and 'composting' at the next committee meeting.

Environmental Affairs Committee

An excellent presentation was made during the committee meeting regarding the beneficial usage of mycorrhizal fungi. The day earlier, an USEPA representative completed a presentation on biostimulents. More importantly, however, the phosphorus restrictions working group presented its two recent work efforts. They were:

- New Policy regarding ‘Fertilizer for Urban Landscapes’, and a
- Revised Policy regarding – ‘Environmental Control Concerning the Application of Fertilizer’.

Both policies were approved to go into tentative status. These policies confirm the concern regarding the environmental effects of nutrient movement and over fertilization.

Uniform Bills Committee

There 2 issues mentioned at the committee meeting that could affect compost were the ‘State-by-State Labeling Regulation Inconsistencies’ working group, whose efforts are planned to start back up. Results from this working group could help compost manufacturers selling product over a multiple state region, or nationally. The other issue pertains to potential changes to the way in which minimum ingredient

guarantees are made on soil amendment products. This issue will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

The AAPFCO 2016 Winter Annual meeting is scheduled for February 2016 A location has not been chosen yet.