



AAPFCO - A Brief History

The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials traces its roots to 1869 when Massachusetts enacted the first fertilizer control law in the U.S. By 1947, all but one of the 48 states had legislated laws to regulate the distribution and use of fertilizer products.

Many of these original fertilizer laws were narrow in scope and non-uniform causing confusion and resulting in chaos for producers marketing products in more than one state. These laws also failed to provide regulatory authority over labeling or inspection of products to prevent misbranding and adulteration. Over the years, it became apparent that the need for uniformity in enforcement would be advantageous both to consumer and industry.

The first attempt to provide uniformity in fertilizer laws was initiated by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists (AOAC), many of whose members were charged with regulating fertilizer products within their own states. These individuals were agricultural chemists who found vast differences in state laws and in the reliability of laboratory methods. One of the original objectives of the AOAC was to "secure as far as possible uniformity of legislation." These differences caused general discussion among chemists to find ways to organize for the purpose of developing and promoting uniform state fertilizer legislation. In October 1946, following that year's AOAC meeting, the Association of American Fertilizer Control Officials was organized. In 1965, the Association became the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) to avoid confusion of its name and acronym with the Association of American Feed Control Officials.

Active membership is open to each state, territory, dominion, province, federal or governmental entity on the North American Continent, Hawaii and Puerto Rico involved in fertilizer regulation. The Association also includes industry representation on committees and are called "Industry Liaisons". Industry liaison members, who are appointed by the president to committees and task forces, participate in committee discussions, serve as members of task forces and as advisors on special problems, but are not voting members of AAPFCO. The Official Publication of AAPFCO describes the Association's by-laws, policies and officially adopted documents.

AAPFCO is governed by a Board of Directors made up of the President, President-elect, three directors, Secretary, Treasurer and Past President which meets twice each year. The Board handles the day to day activities of the Association, and recommends to the membership appropriate actions based on the proposals developed by Association committees.