

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Number of pages: 1

It's National Weights and Measure's Week!

During the he week of March 1-7, 2007 we will recognize the 208th anniversary of the first weights and measures (W&M) laws enacted by the U. S. Congress on March 2, 1799. This week, we acknowledge the important service to the community performed by State and local weights and measures officials across the nation. These men and women help ensure that consumers get what they pay for and businesses do not give product away as a result of inaccurate measuring equipment. The officials also make sure that individuals who sell products and services by weight or measure follow Federal, State, and local laws.

Do you shop for groceries? Do you drive a car or truck? Do you heat your home? Are you in the market for new tile? In Delaware, if you drive a car, heat your home, buy packaged meat, weigh fresh produce at the grocery store, etc., a Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Weights and Measures employee has served you. They inspect scales, gas pumps, home fuel delivery vehicles, propane dealers, milk meters, wire-and-cordage measuring devices, taximeters, parking meters, much more.

A little error here and a little error there can add up to a big loss overall. In 2005, National Conference of Weights and Measures, a professional organization, estimated that an error of slightly more than 1 tablespoon per 5 gallons at the gas pump equaled a charge of \$125 million annually that, depending on the direction of the error, is borne either by consumers or retailers. Think about today's gas prices!

Have you ever picked something up on the store shelf and been charged a different price at the register? Fairness in the marketplace is the top priority for the DDA W& M staff. They routinely perform price verifications that determine the integrity of the scanning process in stores.

"I am very proud of DDA's Weights and Measure's staff. They are out there every business day protecting Delaware's consumers," said Michael Scuse, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture. "If you think that you are a victim of fraud involving weight, volume, quantity or price in the marketplace, we want to know. Please do not hesitate to contact the Delaware Department of Agriculture."

For more information and/or to contact the DDA Weights and Measures Section:

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