



## Committees and Partners

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program is governed and guided by the Nutrient Stewardship Council, a diverse set of stakeholders from business, government, university and non-governmental sectors with a common goal of maintaining agricultural productivity while also improving the quality of Lake Erie and its contributing watersheds.

### Nutrient Stewardship Council Members

- Larry Antosch – Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
- Mindy Bankey – Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Kevin Elder – Ohio Department of Agriculture
- John Fritz – The Andersons, Inc.
- Greg LaBarge – The Ohio State University Extension
- Lara Beal Moody – The Fertilizer Institute
- John Motter – Ohio Soybean Council
- John Oster – Morral Companies, LLC
- Mark Smith – Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mark Sunderman – Ohio AgriBusiness Association Board – Legacy Farmers Cooperative
- Carrie Vollmer-Sanders – The Nature Conservancy

Made possible through funding by:



View a complete list of partners and funders at [4Rcertified.org/contact](http://4Rcertified.org/contact)



Using the Right Source of Nutrients at the Right Rate and Right Time in the Right Place

- [4Rcertified.org](http://4Rcertified.org)
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- [@4Rcertified](https://twitter.com/4Rcertified)
- [info@oaba.net](mailto:info@oaba.net)
- 614-326-7520



Program administered by the Ohio AgriBusiness Association on behalf of the Nutrient Stewardship Council.



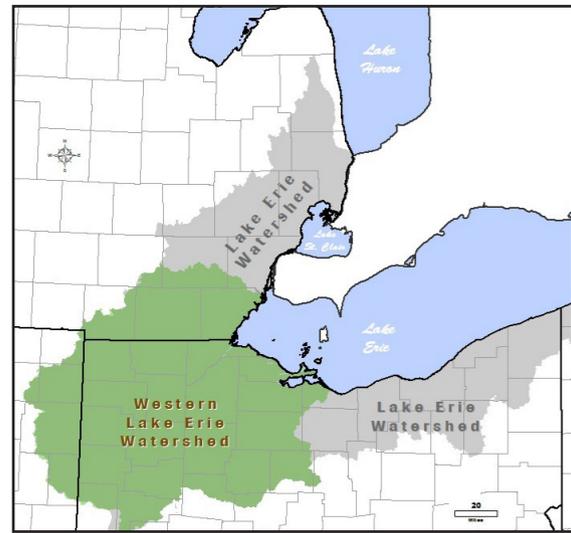
4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

# About

The agriculture community has launched a proactive, responsible commitment aimed at the long-term improvement of Lake Erie's water quality.

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program encourages agricultural retailers, service providers and other certified professionals to adopt proven best practices through the 4Rs, which refers to using the Right Source of Nutrients at the Right Rate and Right Time in the Right Place.

This approach provides a science-based framework for plant nutrition management and sustained crop production, while considering specific individual farms' needs.



This voluntary new program provides a consistent, recognized standard for agricultural retailers in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio where surrounding waters drain into Lake Erie.

# Why



Lake Erie is a source of drinking water for millions, home to more than half the fish in the Great Lakes and a draw for tourists.

Harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and other bodies of water have been on the rise the past five years, leading to increased water treatment costs and negative impacts on fishing and tourism.

Despite the many actions farmers have taken to improve soil health and reduce fertilizer runoff, nutrients leaving fields and entering streams and lakes continue to contribute to water quality problems.

### The 4R Nutrient Certification Stewardship Certification Program was created to address the following goals:

- Maximize crop uptake of nutrients and minimize nutrient loss
- Create long-term positive impacts on water bodies associated with agricultural production areas
- Encourage sharing of the most up-to-date information about responsible nutrient stewardship with Nutrient Service Providers and growers
- Help the agriculture sector adapt to new research and technology in the area of nutrient stewardship

As regulations are being considered, it's critical retailers and their grower customers adopt best practices to realize long-term improvements.

# How

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program outlines 43 criteria to be implemented, staggered over a 3-year period. Each criterion will be re-evaluated each year by a private, third party auditor, via an in-person or desk audit, to maintain certification. Depending on the services provided by the Nutrient Service Provider, some criteria will not be applicable.

There are three sections to the Program, which include:

1. Initial Training and On-going Education
2. Monitoring of 4R Implementation; and
3. Nutrient Recommendations and Application.

Some requirements of the Program:

- Nutrient recommendations are consistent with the state's land-grant university's nutrient recommendations.
- A certified professional reviews the nutrient recommendations made for the grower customers.
- Nutrient Service Provider staff understand the 4Rs of Nutrient Stewardship.

### Rate

- Soil tests, used to make nutrient recommendations are less than 4 years old.
- Nutrient application equipment is calibrated annually.

### Time

- The timing of fertilizer application avoids spreading on frozen or snow-covered fields.
- Nutrients are not broadcast applied prior to a predicted heavy rainfall.

### Source

- All sources of fertilizer are accounted for in the nutrient recommendation.

### Place

- Phosphorus is applied below the soil surface whenever possible.
- Nutrient application setbacks are followed in sensitive areas.

Download complete requirements and details at [4Rcertified.org/how](http://4Rcertified.org/how).

# YES! I want to do my part.

Fill out the form below to register to participate in the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program. Detach and mail using instructions on reverse side.

Name (Branch main contact) \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please complete separate registration forms for each branch interested in certification*

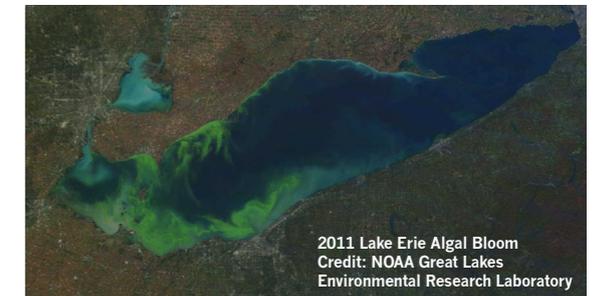
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



You may also complete this form online at [4Rcertified.org/how](http://4Rcertified.org/how).