



Servicing Over 2.7 Million

acres in the Western Lake Erie Basin and Ohio

Certified locations through April 2017:



Fostoria, Fremont, &
Gibsonburg, OH
Waterloo, IN
Litchfield, MI



Monnett, OH



Attica, Findlay,
Hamler, Ottawa, Polk &
Upper Sandusky, OH
Blissfield & Morenci, MI



McCutchenville, OH



New Bavaria, OH



Sycamore &
Upper Sandusky, OH



Arcadia, Arlington, Custar,
McComb & Pandora, OH



LUCKEY FARMERS INC.

Berkey, Bradner &
Graytown, OH



Tontogany, OH



Ohio City & Payne, OH



Caledonia, OH



Bryan, OH



Attica, Ballville,
Crestline & Norwalk, OH



Loudonville, Smithville &
Sullivan, OH



Smithville, OH

Made possible through funding by:

**THE MOSAIC COMPANY
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Rotary
Club of Toledo



View a complete list of partners and funders at
4Rcertified.org/contact



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



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

**We All
Play A
ROLE**



**4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

*Voluntary program for agricultural retailers & nutrient service providers
implementing the 4Rs*

About

In March 2014, the agriculture community 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, nutrient 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, third-party auditor verified program provides a consistent, recognized standard for agricultural retailers and nutrient service providers in the Western Lake Erie Basin (Indiana, Michigan and Ohio) where waters drain into Lake Erie.

On January 1, 2017, the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program was launched to the full state of Ohio, offering all Ohio-based agricultural retailers and nutrient service providers the opportunity to participate in efforts to improve the quality of Ohio's waterways.

As of April 2017, 39 nutrient service providers earned certification status within the program.

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.

Algal blooms in Lake Erie and the Ohio River have been on the rise 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 4Rs

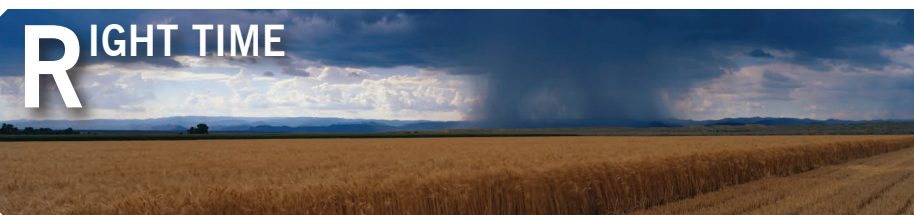
Voluntary program for agricultural retailers & nutrient service providers based on the 4R framework: using the Right Source of nutrients at the Right Rate and Right Time in the Right Place.



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



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



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



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

How

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program outlines 45 cumulative criteria to be implemented, staggered over a three 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.



GOALS

Maximize crop nutrient uptake and minimize losses

Positively impact local water bodies

Provide up-to-date information on nutrient stewardship

Help the agricultural sector adapt to new research and technology

THIRD-PARTY VERIFIED

Audits of training and education, recommendations to growers and application records

Third-party auditor verification occurs every year

REQUIREMENTS

Initial training and on-going education

Monitoring of 4R implementation

Nutrient recommendation and application

Download complete requirements and details at 4Rcertified.org/resources.

For more information visit 4Rcertified.org

