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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 New York State 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 2017, the agriculture community in New York State launched a proactive, responsible commitment aimed at the long-term improvement of the state'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.

Today, the New York 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Advisory Committee boasts 93 individuals from industry, government, university, and non-government agencies.

The first audits were conducted August 2019.

Why

New York State has more than 7,600 waterbodies, two Great Lakes and over 70,000 miles of rivers and streams.

Most algae are harmless and are an important part of the food web. Certain types of algae can grow quickly and form blooms, which can cover all or portions of a lake. Even large blooms are not necessarily harmful. However, some species of algae can produce toxins that can be harmful to people and animals. Blooms of algal species that can produce toxins are referred to as harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs usually occur in nutrient-rich waters, particularly during hot, calm weather.

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.

RIGHT SOURCE



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

RIGHT RATE



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

RIGHT TIME



- 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.

RIGHT PLACE



- 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 the 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 nysaba.com/4r-ny



For more information nysaba@rochester.rr.com