

Indiana's 4R Certification
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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 Agribusiness Council of Indiana, on behalf of the Global Nutrient Stewardship Council.



**4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

A voluntary program for agricultural retailers & nutrient service providers implementing the 4Rs.

About 4R:

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 Indiana.

On November 20, 2020, Agribusiness Council of Indiana launched the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program to offer all Indiana-based agricultural retailers and nutrient service providers the opportunity to participate in efforts to improve water quality in Indiana and beyond.



What are the 4Rs?

4R Nutrient Stewardship provides a framework to achieve cropping system goals, such as: increased production, increased farmer profitability, enhanced environmental protection and improved sustainability.

To achieve those goals, the 4R concept incorporates these best practices:



Right Source

Matches fertilizer type to crop needs.



Right Rate

Matches amount of fertilizer to crop needs.



Right Time

Makes nutrients available when crops need them.



Right Place

Keeps nutrients where crops can use them.

Properly managed fertilizers support cropping systems that provide economic, social and environmental benefits. On the other hand, poorly managed nutrient applications can decrease profitability and increase nutrient losses, potentially degrading water and air.

The 4R nutrient stewardship principles are the same globally, but how they are used locally varies depending on field and site specific characteristics such as soil, cropping system, management techniques and climate.

Why 4R?

Ag retailers are the trusted advisors of Hoosier farmers. Whether testing the soil or crafting a precise fertilizer application, ag retailers work hand-in-hand with farmers making in-field decisions.

Using the 4Rs to achieve farmer production goals is a proactive, responsible commitment aimed at the long-term improvement of water quality.

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.

How to get 4R certified:

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program requires that a retail location is audited on a set of standards developed by the Nutrient Stewardship Council. This set of standards outlines best practices (program requirements) to be implemented. Each requirement is evaluated annually by a private, third party auditor via an in-person audit to earn or 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:

- Initial training and ongoing education;
- Monitoring of 4R implementation; and
- Nutrient recommendations and application.

To review the Indiana certification standard, visit: inagribiz.org/4Rstandards

