

4R Inside Checklist

Is your nutrient management system 4R consistent? The 4R Nutrient Stewardship concept defines the right source, rate, time, and place for plant nutrient application as those producing the economic, social, and environmental outcomes desired by all stakeholders in the soil-plant system. The 4R approach is based on using Best Management Practices (BMPs) derived from the best available science to manage nutrient resources in ways that increase sustainability. The following checklist outlines the requirements for compliance with 4R Nutrient Stewardship standards. Meeting the standards allows producers, service providers, educators, and policy makers to be assured that their programs follow 4R Nutrient Stewardship.

Does your nutrient management program:

- ✓ Balance the three areas of sustainability – economic, social, and environmental.
- ✓ Includes BMPs that integrate solutions for all 4R performance areas – source, rate, time and place.
- ✓ Provide site-specific recommendations that address specific regional soil, climate and operational issues.
- ✓ Balance nutrition to ensure that N, P, K, secondary nutrients and micronutrients are in adequate supply to meet crop production expectations.
- ✓ Use appropriate tools such as soil testing, tissue testing, and nutrient balance to assess nutrient requirements.
- ✓ Consider all sources of nutrients (fertilizer, soil organic matter, manure, crop residue etc.) during planning and recommendation development.
- ✓ Comply with applicable nutrient management regulations in your region.
- ✓ Measure the effectiveness of selected BMPs and use assessments to support continuous improvement.
- ✓ Use concepts and terminology consistent with defined 4R standards.
- ✓ Provide and maintain clear documentation of the nutrient management plan and its implementation.

