











The world's population is expanding & food production must rise. By 2050 we will need to increase food production by 70%.

How do we accomplish this without a massive expansion of farmland and still protect our soil, water and air?

77% of future growth in crop production is expected to come from increased yields – of which fertilizer is key



Fertilizer is an important input for crop production, but poorly managed nutrient applications can decrease profitability and increase nutrient losses, potentially degrading water and air.

4R Nutrient Stewardship empowers farmers with the knowledge & resources they need to grow crops sustainably.

The 4Rs increase production & profitability for farmers while ensuring the future of the agricultural industry:



Right Source - Select the correct source of nutrient for your soil ensuring a balanced supply of essential plant nutrients



Right Rate – Perform annual soil testing & apply nutrients to meet crop requirements while accounting for nutrients already in the soil Right Time – Apply nutrients at the right time so



nutrients will be available when crop demand is high & do not apply fertilizer on frozen soils Right Place – Place nutrients below the soil



surface where they can be taken up by growing roots when needed

Through sustainable actions, we can protect our soil, water and air for society.

4R Nutrient Stewardship



4R Designation



The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program will play a key role in meeting the sustainability challenge

nutrient stewardship

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What is 4R designation?

Farmers are increasingly facing pressures from the supply chain and the general public to demonstrate on farm stewardship and the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program can provide a strategic opportunity to meet those challenges.

4R Nutrient Stewardship provides a framework to achieve cropping system goals — increased production, increased farmer profitability, enhanced environmental protection and improved sustainability. 4R Nutrient Stewardship requires the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that optimize the efficiency of fertilizer use. The goal of fertilizer BMPs is to match nutrient supply with crop requirements and to minimize nutrient losses. Selection of BMPs varies by location, and those chosen for a given farm are dependent on local soil and climatic conditions, crop, management conditions and other site-specific factors.

The 4R Designation provides recognition for farmers who complete and apply 4R Nutrient Stewardship consistent plans.

Minimize impact to the environment

Contribute to Canada's environmental goals by adopting 4Rs on farm. Retaining nutrients within a field's boundaries and in the crop rooting zone greatly reduces the amount that is not utilized by plants and thereby escapes into the environment as pollution.

