

Made possible through funding by:

The 4R Certification program was first brought to Canada through implementation of the program in Ontario in close collaboration with the Nutrient Stewardship Council, the Ohio Agri-Business Association and The Fertilizer Institute in the U.S. to ensure alignment between cross-border efforts. The PEI 4R Certification standards were developed by Certification Working Group and Steering Committee to create a set of standards representative of PEI agriculture, landscape and nutrient loss pathways of concern. The standards are reflective of the best available science, technology and regulatory requirements for PEI conditions.

Members of the 4R PEI Steering Committee represent a diversity of stakeholders including Fertilizer Canada; the PEI Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate Change; the PEI Ministry of Agriculture and Land; the Atlantic Fertilizer Council; the PEI Potato Board; the PEI Federation of Agriculture; the Kensington North Watersheds Association; and PEI agri-retailers.



Right Source @ Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place®

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FERTILIZER CANADA

Program administered by Fertilizer Canada on behalf of the 4R PEI Steering Committee



4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program in Prince Edward Island

Voluntary program for Prince Edward Island agri-retailers and nutrient service providers implementing 4R Nutrient Stewardship

About

4R Nutrient Stewardship is being implemented across PEI through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Formalized in 2012, Fertilizer Canada signed an MOU with the PEI Ministry of Agriculture and Land; PEI Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate Change; the Kensington North Watershed Association; PEI Federation of Agriculture; and the PEI Potato Board. Representatives from the MOU signatories form a collaborative 4R PEI Steering Committee. The 4R Certification program, modeled after the program being adopted by agri-retailers in Ontario, encourages agri-retailers, nutrient service providers and certified professionals to adopt science-based, proven 4R Nutrient Stewardship best management practices (BMPs).

4R Nutrient Stewardship BMPs must be customized to fit each farm's unique climatic, soil, cropping and operational conditions. Continuous improvement can be achieved by employing science that optimizes the economic, social and environmental performance of BMPs utilized through implementing the voluntary 4R Nutrient Stewardship program in PEI. These standards, and the corresponding evidence to meet those standards are audited by a third-party to provide a consistent, recognized program for PEI agri-retailers and nutrient service providers.

4R Nutrient Stewardship

4R Nutrient Stewardship works to increase production and profitability for growers while ensuring the future of the agricultural industry.

RIGHT



SOURCE

The **Right Source** means ensuring a balanced supply of essential plant nutrients including granular fertilizers, liquid fertilizers and/or manures.

RIGHT



RATE

The **Right Rate** is applying just enough fertilizer to meet the needs of the plant while accounting for the nutrients already in the soil.

RIGHT



TIME

The **Right Time** means applying fertilizer when the plant will get the most benefit and avoiding times when fertilizer can be lost to the environment.

RIGHT



PLACE

The **Right Place** is where the plants can easily use fertilizer and where it is less likely to be lost to the water or air.

Why?

PEI receives 100 percent of its drinking water from groundwater, making it unique compared to other regions. An important component in protecting PEI's drinking water source is sustainable nutrient management planning. Watershed groups recognize the important role that agriculture holds in the local economy and culture, and gladly work with the agricultural community on the common goal of maintaining and improving water quality and access. Managing crop nutrients properly offers both economic and environmental benefits to producers and to the rest of society. The efficient use of nutrients from commercial fertilizers, manure, or other sources reduces input costs for crop production and minimizes the risk of nutrient losses to ground and surface water sources.



Additionally, end-use customers are starting to demand that steps be taken to prove the agricultural industry is committed to sustainable practices. Food companies and sustainable supply chain initiatives recognize the value of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship framework so we can assist growers in addressing compliance questions and assist in accessing new markets for their products. It will be critical for members of Canada's value chain to respond in a proactive and cohesive manner to the challenges and opportunities presented by the growing global demand for sustainably grown ingredients.

The 4R PEI Certification
Standards Manual is available at
4rcertified.ca

How?

The 4R Certification program in PEI is comprised of 38 auditable standards. Of that total: six address training and education, 12 address nutrient recommendations, 11 address nutrient application and nine address maintenance of proper documentation. Each standard, and the corresponding evidence to meet those standards, are re-evaluated on a two-year cycle by a third-party auditor, via an in-person audit, to maintain certification.

Goals

Optimize crop nutrient availability and uptake to improve crop production and soil health

Create long-term positive impacts on water bodies associated with agricultural production areas, including the reduction of nutrient loss to ground and surface water sources to help meet water quality standards

Encourage sharing on the most up-to-date information for ways to reduce on-farm greenhouse gas emissions

Help the agricultural sector adapt to new research and technology in the area of nutrient stewardship

Third-Party Audit

The Agri-Chemical Warehouse Standards Association (AWSA) is the third-party audit body conducting the 4R Certification Program audits in PEI

Audits evaluate all four categories of standards: training and education, nutrient recommendation and application, and documentation

Audits occur on a two-year cycle to maintain certification

Benefits for Agri-retailers

By helping growers complete a 4R plan to get their acres counted, a retailer is getting the first and best opportunity to fully understand the growers' fertilizer requirements

4R is based on current, region-specific nutrient best management practices

Becoming 4R Certified allows PEI retail locations to use the 4R sustainability certification to communicate to growers and external stakeholders that they are part of the solution

Staff earn CCA credits for training

It's the right thing to do at the right time

Allows retailers to show they have their grower customers' best interest in mind as 4R Nutrient Stewardship can help growers realize inefficiencies in their use of fertilizer on their farms and find bottom line savings for more effective and economical use